HoudahGeo

User's Manual

(September 2014)

http://www.houdah.com/houdahGeo

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Introduction

HoudahGeo is a one-stop geocoding solution for the Mac. HoudahGeo caters to two very different needs:

- **Geocoding for archival purposes** using EXIF, XMP and IPTC tags
- **Geocoding for publishing** to Google Earth, Flickr, EveryTrail or locr

HoudahGeo offers you many ways of geocoding your favorite photos:

- **Automatic**: Matches photos to a GPS track log
- **iPhone**: Matches photos to reference photos taken using iPhone
- **Manually using Google Earth**: Point Google Earth to the desired location
- **Manually using a map**: Pick locations using the built-in map
- **Precision**: Attach photos to GPS waypoints
- **Manual entry**: Enter coordinates found on Google Earth, Wikipedia, ...

HoudahGeo connects directly to many brands and models of GPS track loggers. It also reads GPX, NMEA, TES, … and TCX files created by third party software.

The Basics

HoudahGeo structures the geocoding process into three successive steps:

- **Load**: Start by adding images and optionally GPS track logs to the project
- **Process:** Add or update metadata for the images in the project
- **Output:** Export or publish the newly created metadata

The HoudahGeo project window thus has three states. One for each step. Use the first three toolbar buttons to switch between states. The toolbar will update to show buttons applicable to the current context.

HoudahGeo works on project files that may be saved for later use. A project file is essentially a list of image files. A project stores metadata for the images it references. Additionally GPS track logs can be loaded into a project.

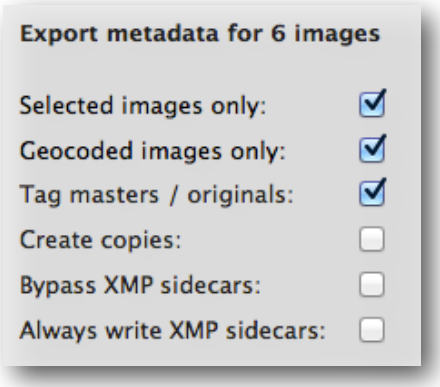
Workflows

HoudahGeo fits many workflows. The below are only a few examples. Feel free to adapt these to your liking.

> Writing EXIF/XMP/IPTC tags to image files requires modifying the files. This process is lossless. Image quality is not affected. Modifying files is however not without risk. We thus recommend you always have backup copies.

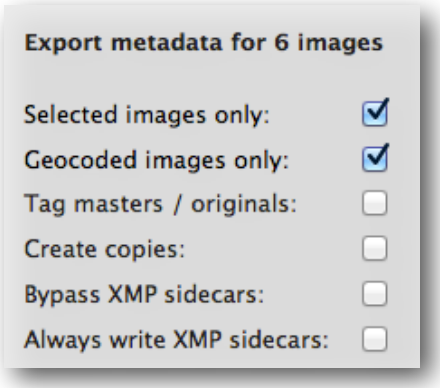
Geotag images hosted by iPhoto / Aperture

1. Make sure you have a backup of your iPhoto / Aperture library and images
2. Use the media browser in HoudahGeo to locate images to tag. Drag them from the media browser into the images list in your project
3. Set coordinates and metadata in HoudahGeo
4. Export metadata to EXIF/XMP/IPTC
   a. Select the "Tag masters / originals" option
   b. Deselect the "Create copies" option
   c. Deselect the "Bypass XMP sidecars" option
   d. Deselect the "Always write XMP sidecars" option
5. Have HoudahGeo notify iPhoto / Aperture of the new metadata



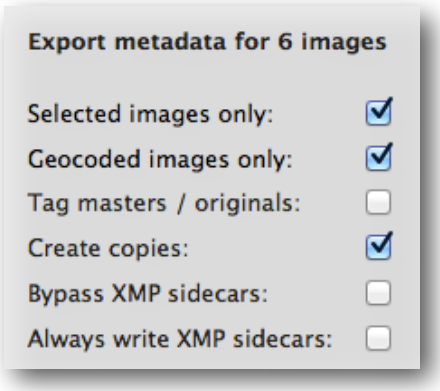
Reference geotagged images in Aperture. Option 1

1. Use Apple's Image Capture tool to import images. Don't erase the memory card yet
2. Load the images into a HoudahGeo project by dragging them from the Finder
3. Set coordinates and metadata in HoudahGeo
4. Export metadata to EXIF/XMP/IPTC
   a. Deselect the "Tag masters / originals" option
   b. Deselect the "Create copies" option
   c. Deselect the "Bypass XMP sidecars" option
   d. Deselect the "Always write XMP sidecars" option
5. Import images into Aperture. Select the option to reference images in their current location
6. Erase images from the camera / memory card



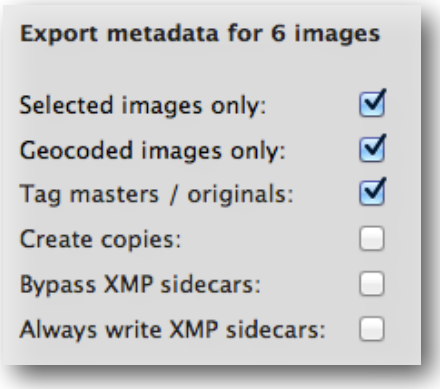
Reference geotagged images in Aperture. Option 2

1. Drag images from the memory card to your HoudahGeo project
2. Set coordinates and metadata in HoudahGeo
3. Export metadata to EXIF/XMP/IPTC
   a. Deselect the "Tag masters / originals" option
   b. Select the "Create copies" option
   c. Deselect the "Bypass XMP sidecars" option
   d. Deselect the "Always write XMP sidecars" option
4. Specify a location where HoudahGeo should save the copies it will create
5. Import the copies into Aperture. Select the option to reference images in their current location



Geotag images hosted by Lightroom

1. Make sure you have a backup of your Lightroom library and images
2. Instruct Lightroom to write metadata to XMP sidecars
3. Use the media browser in HoudahGeo to locate images to tag. Drag them from the media browser into the images list of your project
4. Set coordinates and metadata in HoudahGeo
5. Export metadata to EXIF/XMP/IPTC
   a. Select the "Tag masters / originals" option
   b. Deselect the "Create copies" option
   c. Deselect the "Bypass XMP sidecars" option
   d. Deselect the "Always write XMP sidecars" option
6. Instruct Lightroom to load metadata from the XMP sidecars



Publish geotagged images to Flickr

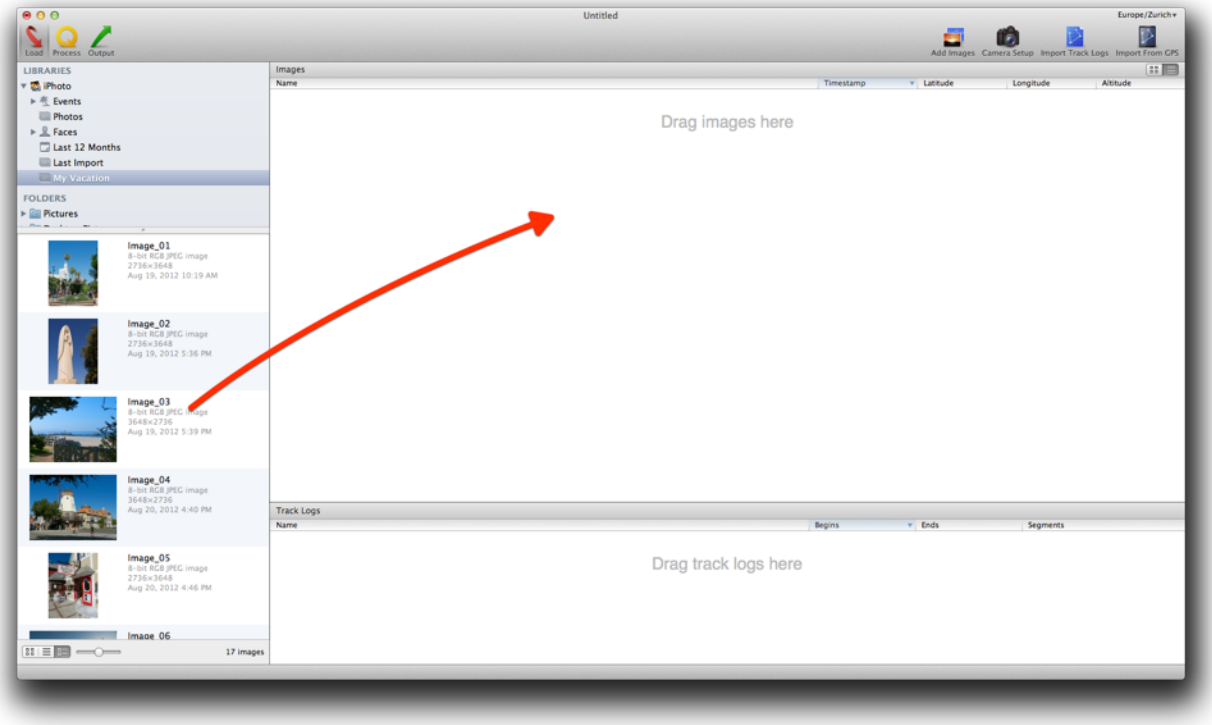
1. Use the media browser in HoudahGeo to locate images to publish. Drag them from the media browser into the images list of your project
2. Double-check coordinates and metadata in HoudahGeo
3. Select the *Flickr Upload* option from the HoudahGeo toolbar

Step by Step

Step 1: Load

During this step you configure your HoudahGeo project. Load images into the project. Specify the camera clock setup. Optionally load GPS track logs.

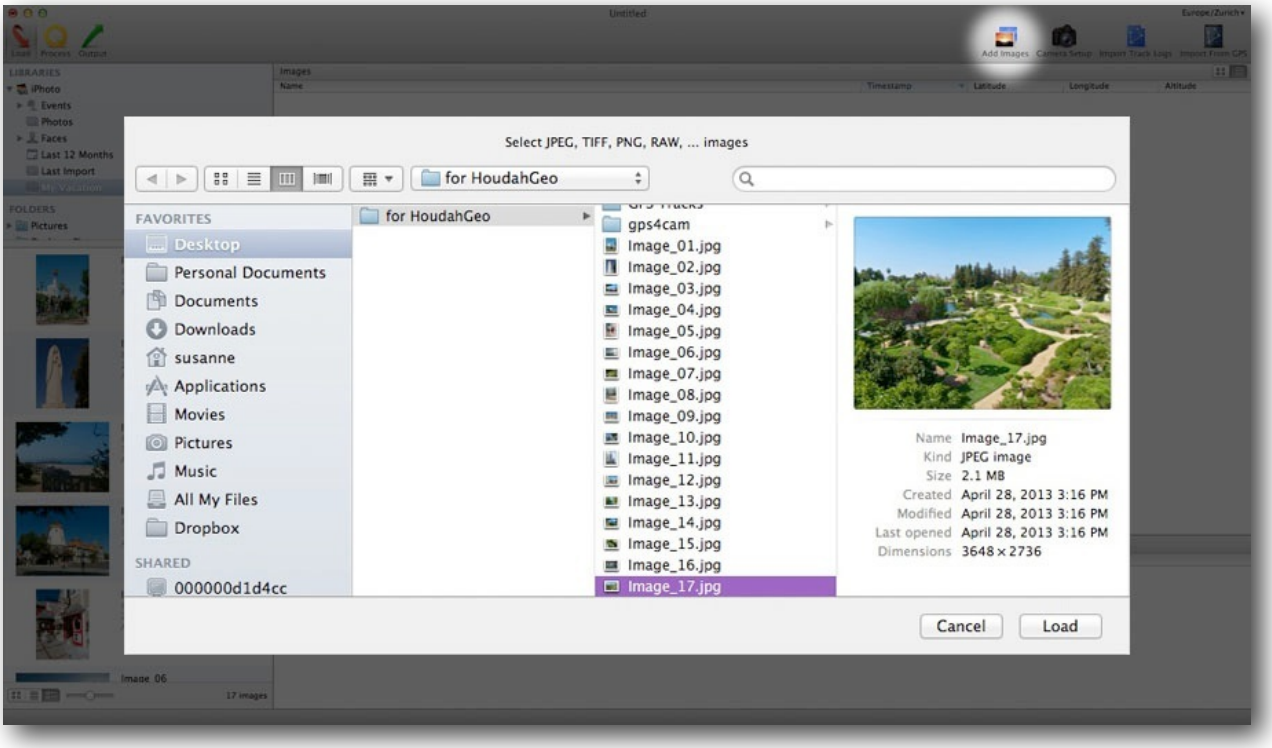
HoudahGeo features a media browser to access images from your iPhoto, Aperture and Lightroom libraries. Drag images from the media browser to the image list in your project.



Dragging images from the media browser gives HoudahGeo additional information needed later on for tagging masters / originals and for notifying iPhoto / Aperture of updated metadata.

Add Images

The "Add Images" toolbar button allows you to browse the file system to add images to your project. You may also load folders containing the images. Alternatively you may drag images from the media browser or the Finder to the images list.



HoudahGeo supports JPEG as well as a large selection of RAW formats. Please make use of the demo period to make sure HoudahGeo supports the image format produced by your camera.

HoudahGeo only references files. It does not copy them. Keeping the images safe is left up to you. You should refrain from moving image files as long as you are working on their metadata in HoudahGeo.

Camera Setup

All digital cameras write timestamps to the images they take. Most cameras however do not store the time zone they are configured for. HoudahGeo uses timestamps to match images to GPS track logs. It needs to know how to interpret the timestamps embedded in the images.

Camera clock setup thus is the single most important information you need to provide to HoudahGeo. Automatic geocoding is only possible when this information is accurate.

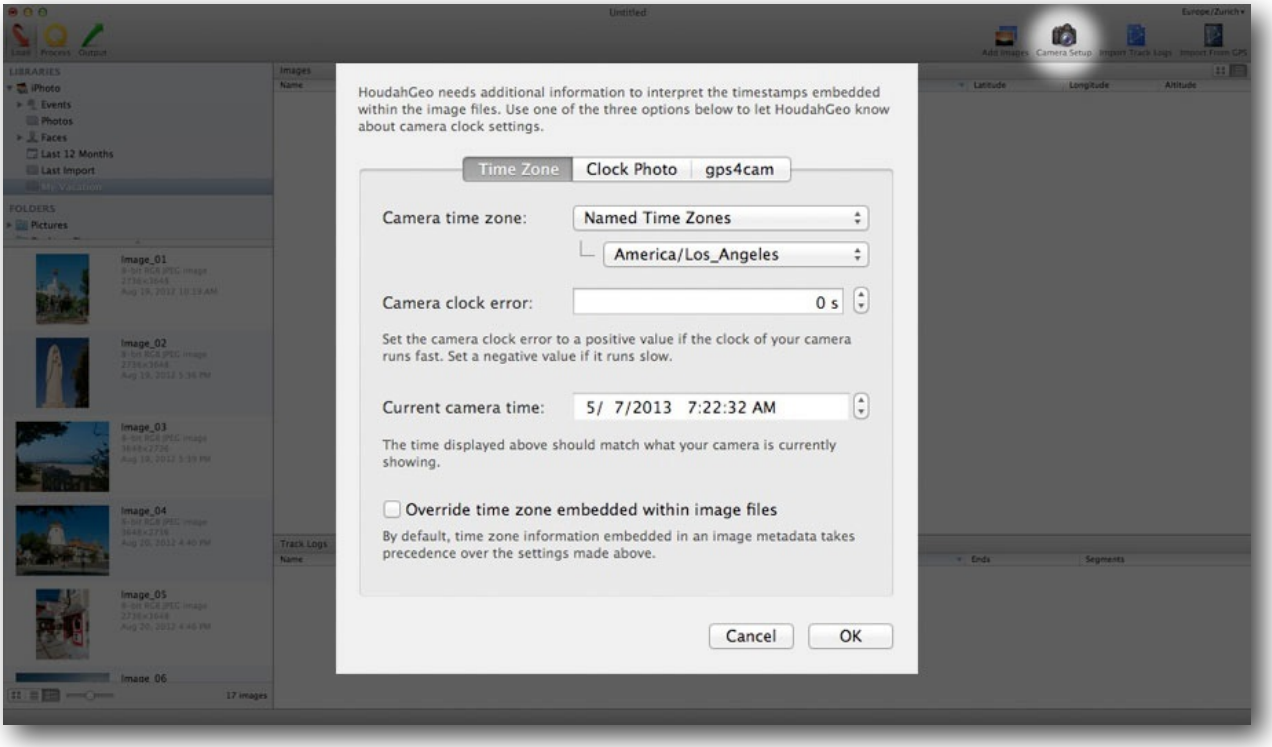
To set up the camera clock, you may choose from three options.

Time Zone

Camera time zone: the time zone the camera was configured to at the time the photos were taken. Typically this is your home time zone or the time zone you have travelled to. There are three time zone lists to choose from: named time zones, GMT offsets and time zone abbreviations.

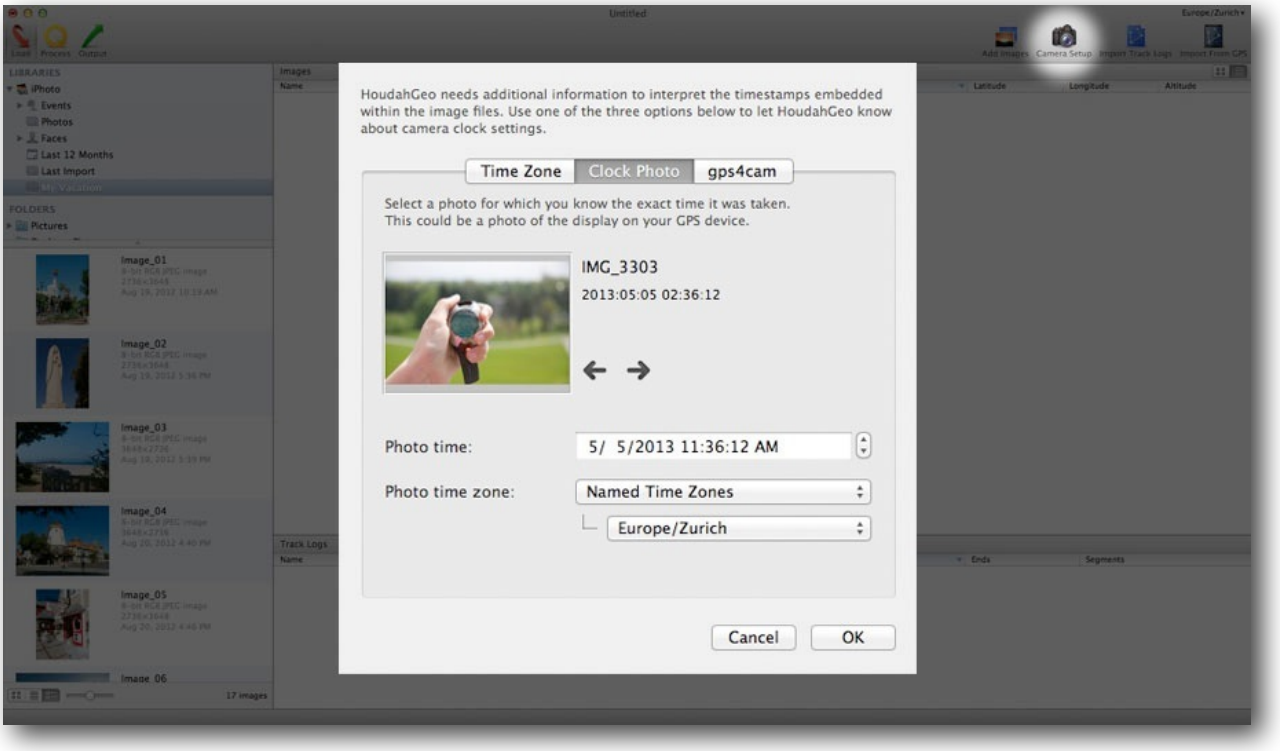
Clock error: the number of seconds your camera's clock was fast at the time the photos were taken. If you have accurately set the time on your camera, this value should be 0.

Current camera time: enter the time time as currently displayed on your camera. This assumes that the camera clock has not been reset since the photos to be geocoded have been taken.


HoudahGeo needs additional information to interpret the timestamps embedded within the image files. Use one of the three options below to let HoudahGeo know about camera clock settings.
Time Zone
Clock Photo
gps4cam
Camera time zone:
Named Time Zones
America/Los_Angeles
Camera clock error:
0 s
Set the camera clock error to a positive value if the clock of your camera runs fast. Set a negative value if it runs slow.
Current camera time:
5/ 7/2013 7:22:32 AM
The time displayed above should match what your camera is currently showing.
Override time zone embedded within image files
By default, time zone information embedded in an image metadata takes precedence over the settings made above.
Cancel
OK

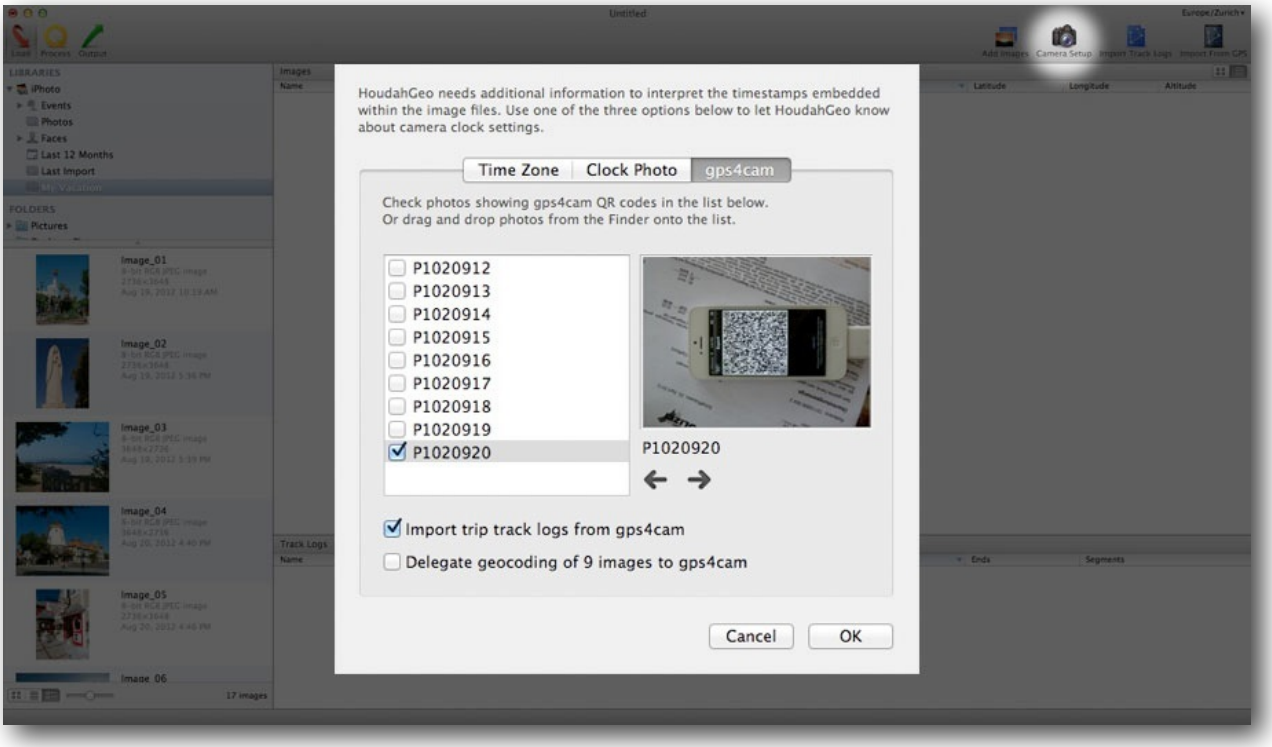
Clock Photo

Select a photo for which you know the exact time and time zone it was taken. Enter the time it was taken and set the time zone of the filled in time information. E.g. point HoudahGeo to a photo of Big Ben in London. Enter the time shown and select the "Europe/London" time zone.


HoudahGeo needs additional information to interpret the timestamps embedded within the image files. Use one of the three options below to let HoudahGeo know about camera clock settings.
Time Zone
Clock Photo
gps4cam
Select a photo for which you know the exact time it was taken.
This could be a photo of the display on your GPS device.
IMG_3303
2013:05:05 02:36:12
Photo time:
5/ 5/2013 11:36:12 AM
Photo time zone:
Named Time Zones
Europe/Zurich
Cancel
OK

gps4cam

This option allows for geocoding using QR codes generated by the gps4cam app. Select all gps4cam QR codes in the list. You may opt to let gps4cam handle image geocoding. Otherwise, HoudahGeo will geocode using the imported track log.


HoudahGeo needs additional information to interpret the timestamps embedded within the image files. Use one of the three options below to let HoudahGeo know about camera clock settings.
Time Zone
Clock Photo
gps4cam
Check photos showing gps4cam QR codes in the list below.
Or drag and drop photos from the Finder onto the list.
P1020912
P1020913
P1020914
P1020915
P1020916
P1020917
P1020918
P1020919
P1020920
P1020920
Import trip track logs from gps4cam
Delegate geocoding of 9 images to gps4cam
Cancel
OK

Settings made in "Camera Setup" are, by default, ignored for images which come with time zone information already embedded. This includes images taken by the iPhone or another GPS-enabled camera.

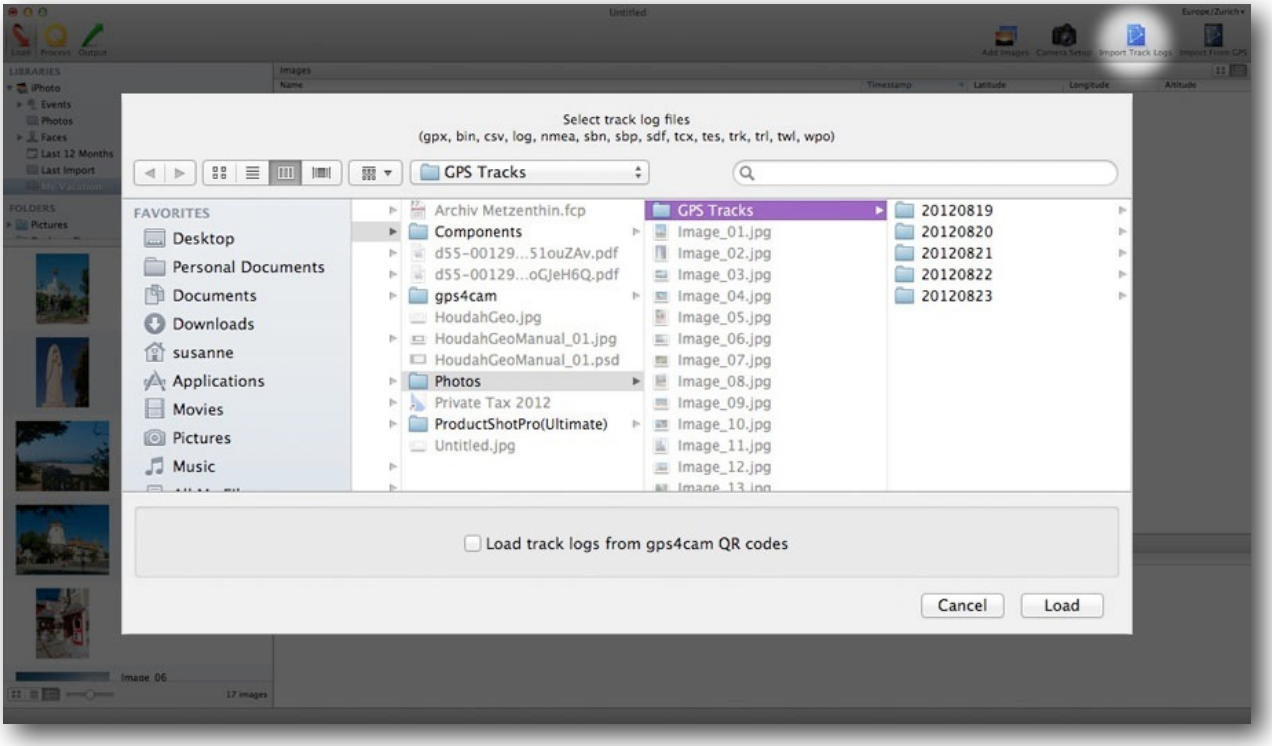
HoudahGeo supposes that all photos in a project were taken using the same camera settings. If you used multiple cameras, you need to create separate projects. You then have the option to write timestamps including time zone information during EXIF/XMP export. You may then load the updated images into a new project.

Import Track Logs

The "Import Track Logs" toolbar button allows you to browse the file system to add GPS track logs to your project. You may also load folders containing the track log files. Alternatively you may drag track log files from the Finder to the tracks list. HoudahGeo supports a large selection of track log file formats. These include: GPX, NMEA, TES, TCX, …

> Please make use of the demo period to make sure HoudahGeo supports the file format your GPS device or its software can provide.

You may also load track logs from QR codes generated by the gps4cam app. In the "Import Track Logs" menu, select the QR code pictures and tick the corresponding box.



Import from GPS

HoudahGeo may connect to a large selection of GPS devices. For this it relies on various helpers (e.g. GPSBabel) which ship with HoudahGeo and can be configured using presets. Existing preset support:

- Many Garmin devices
- Several GiSTEK PhotoTrackr models (experimental)
- Several GlobalSat devices
- Several Holux devices
- i-gotU loggers
- The GPSRecorder iPhone app
- iTrackU devices
- Many Magellan devices
- Many devices using a Mediatek MTK chipset
- Devices supporting the Navilink protocol
- Devices based on the Skytraq Venus 5 and Venus 6 chipsets
- MTK-based devices (iBlue, Qstarz, ...)
- RoyalTek RGM-3800
- Wintec WBT-200, WBT-201, WBT-100, WBT-1000

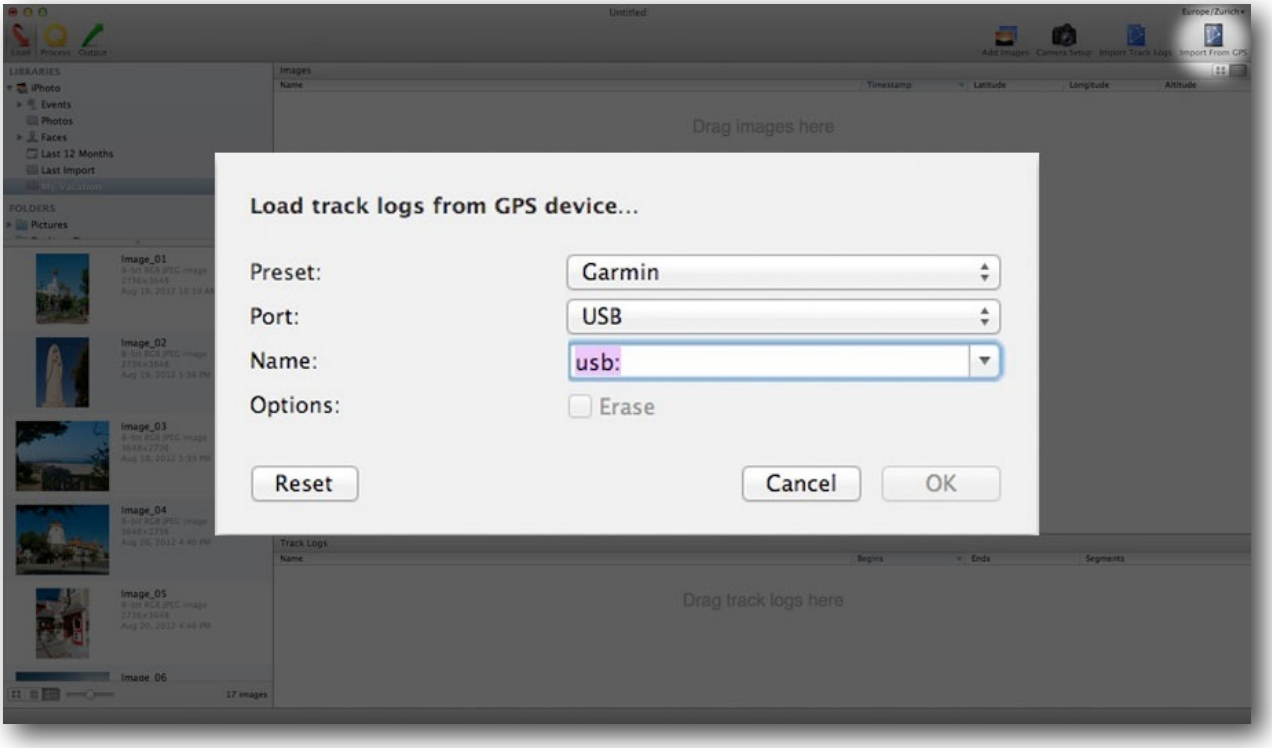
Please refer to the "Configure Presets…" window for more information about the predefined presets. In addition to HoudahGeo supporting the device's data protocol, you will most often also need a USB driver. The presets' descriptions will often provide instructions on where to locate drivers. You may also want to refer to Apple's *System Profiler / Information* utility to learn the type of USB chip used by your GPS track logger.

Please make use of the demo period to make sure HoudahGeo works as expected with your device. We are unfortunately unable to verify compatibility with all devices that we try to support.

You don't need to - and usually cannot - use this feature with GPS devices that support the USB Mass Storage Device mode. These devices mount on your Desktop much like USB drives. You will find track log files located within folders on the device. The track log files can be dragged directly from the Finder to the track list of your HoudahGeo project.

To import GPS track logs from a device, you first need to select a **Preset**. Next select a **Port** type: **USB**, **Serial / Bluetooth**, **WiFi / AirPort**. A device **Name** is also required. However, HoudahGeo provides sensible defaults. You will probably not need to modify this value. Situations where you need to select an alternate value include:

- Use of a serial-to-USB from a brand other than KeySpan or simultaneous use of several such converters
- Use of custom serial device name during pairing of a Bluetooth device
- Devices which are assigned a name as they are connected



The "OK" button is enabled only when there is a reasonable chance for the device to be available. E.g. the device name should match the name of a known device.

For USB devices with a "usb:" device name, the "OK" button is enabled only once the device is plugged in.

It is always a good idea to use a tool like HoudahGPS or LoadMyTracks to download track logs as independent files. These may be kept on archive for future use.

Set Up Bluetooth Devices

First, make sure Bluetooth is enabled both on your computer and on the GPS device.

Using *System Preferences*, you will need to pair the device with your computer before first use. In the pairing process, you will get the opportunity to specify a serial device name. It is recommended you use the suggested default value.

You may now address the device in HoudahGeo by the above specified name.

Set Up Wintec WBT-201 USB Connection

In order to use the USB connection of your Wintec device, you need to install an appropriate driver. You may get that driver from Silicon Labs. The Wintec device will be known to HoudahGeo by the name of "SLAB_USBtoUART".

Set Up a MTK-based Device for USB Connection

The MTK name refers to the GPS chipset used in these devices. Different brands of MTK-based devices use different USB chipsets. Set-up depends on the USB chipset used. Some devices need no driver: The Qstarz BT-Q1300 shows up as usbmodemXXX where XXX varies.

Other devices need Mac drivers to operate. You will need to find the appropriate drivers for your device. Actually, some of these devices use the exact same chipset as the Wintec WBT-201. For these you need to follow the instructions detailed above.

Some devices may need Bluetooth to be switched on for the USB connection to operate.

Use of a Serial-to-USB Converter

Serial-to-USB converters require the installation of a driver provided by the converter's manufacturer. The driver decides of the name by which HoudahGeo will see the device. E.g. for the KeySpan converters the name to use is "KeySerial1".

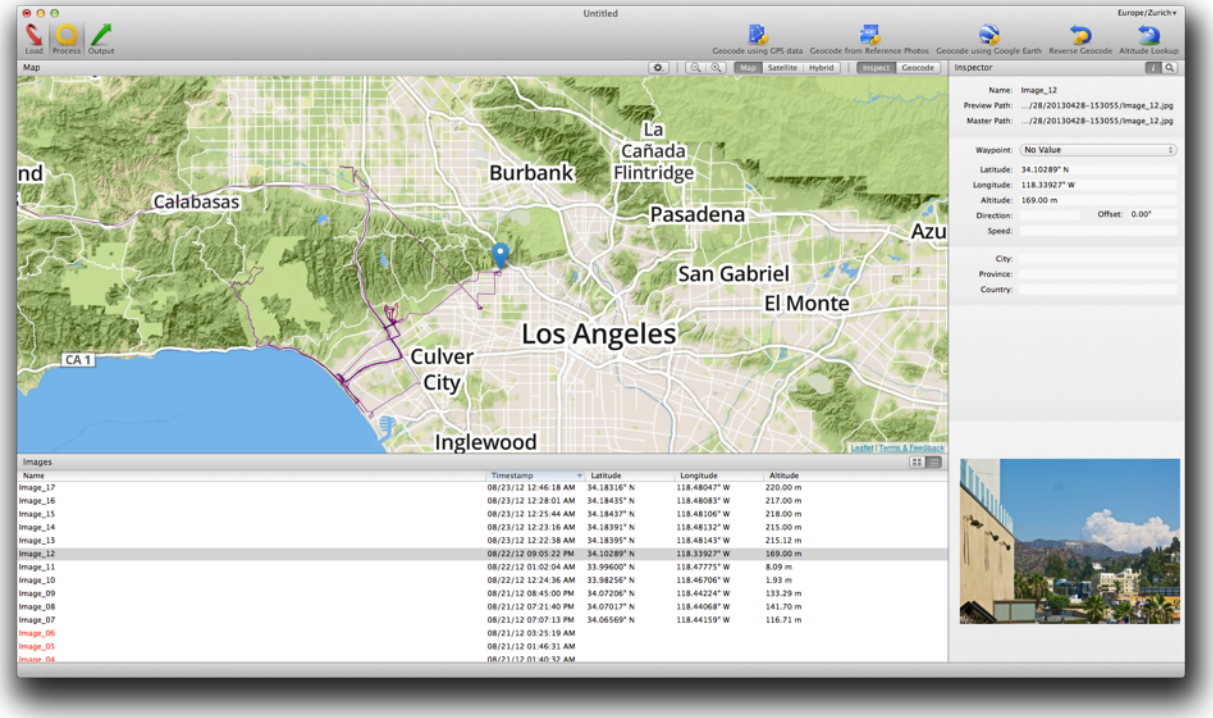
Serial devices connected using a serial-to-usb converter may show up either as USB or serial device. Please check both options.

Step 2: Process

During this step you provide or let HoudahGeo compute GPS coordinates and other metadata for the images in the project.

Automatic Geocoding

The most convenient way of geocoding images is by matching them to a GPS track log file. For this you would have loaded such a track log during the first step. If the track log matches the images, HoudahGeo will already have geocoded your images. You may now verify the coordinates using the map and inspector panes.



What you are looking for in a GPS device is the "track logging" feature: Every couple of seconds, the device records its position to a file. Pure track loggers are available for less than $100. Refer to the Frequently Asked Questions for device recommendations.

You don't need a GPS device. Read on for other ways of geocoding your photos: using a map, using Google Earth, from reference photos, …

The Inspector Pane

During step 2, the inspector pane is shown to the right-hand side of the project window. The values in the inspector pane pertain to the currently selected images.

The first segment of the inspector shows information about the image: its **name**, **preview** and **master path**. Click the preview or master path to reveal the referenced file in the Finder.

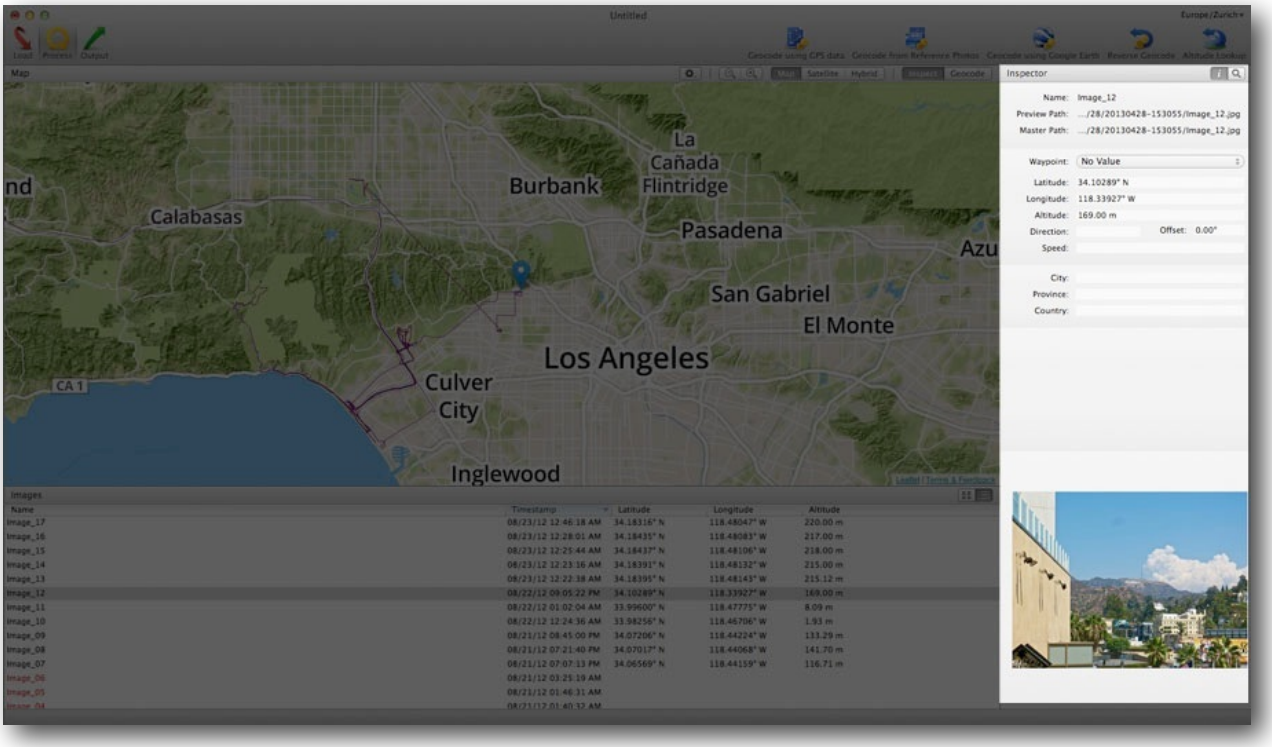
Photo libraries like iPhoto, Aperture or Lightroom store or reference a master version of each image. This goes untouched as you apply adjustments to your images. Only the preview version of the image reflects these adjustments. As you drag an image from the HoudahGeo media browser to your project, HoudahGeo stores both the preview and master paths. The preview image file is useful for export operations, like Flickr upload, were you want to see the images in their final form. When writing metadata to files during EXIF/XMP export, you will most likely want HoudahGeo to write to the master files. Tagging preview files indeed serves little purpose. These only a have a short lifespan: they get replaced each time you apply adjustments in iPhoto, Aperture or Lightroom.

The second segment of the Inspector focusses on the images' coordinates. Here you may view and edit **latitude**, **longitude**, **altitude**, **direction** and **speed**.

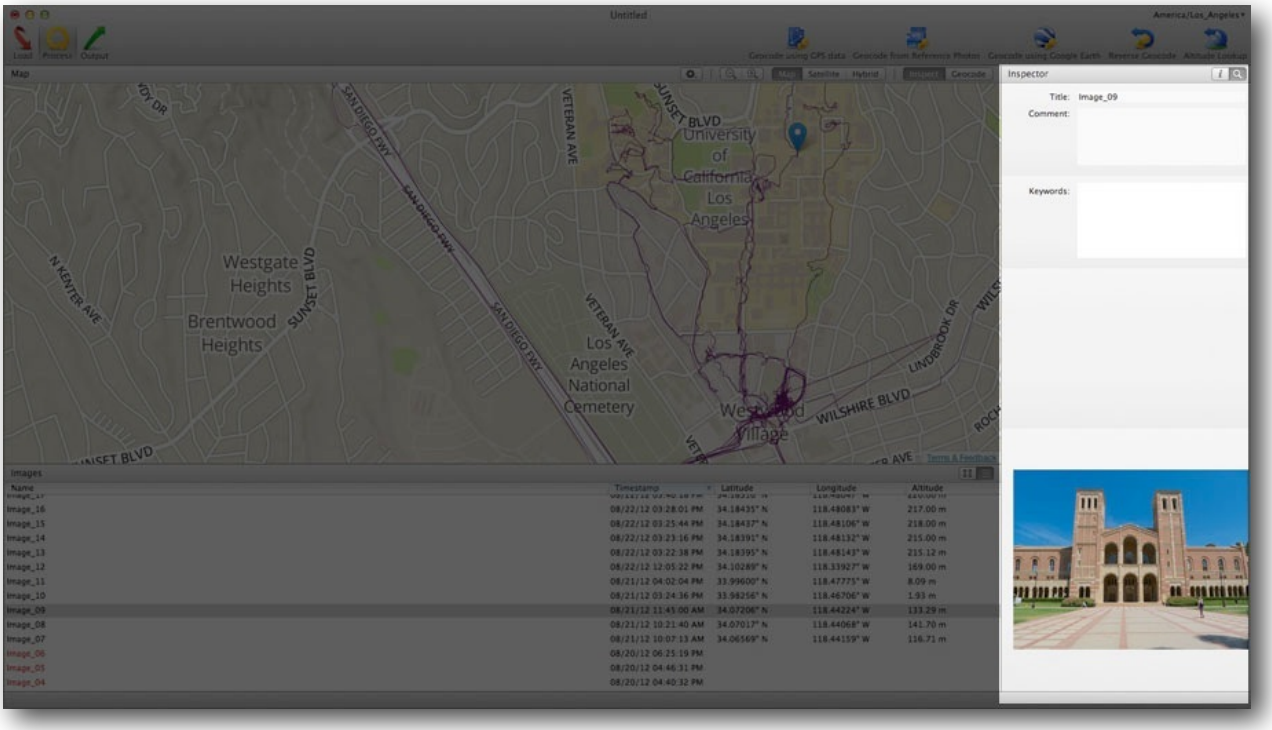
If your GPS device includes a compass, the direction value is populated during automatic geocoding. You may add an **offset** if you know that the photo was taken in a different direction from where the GPS compass was pointing. E.g. you took photos out the side window of an airplane. During export HoudahGeo adds the direction and offset values to compute a single viewing direction value.

Your GPS device may also offer the option to record waypoints. You may thus mark locations where you took photos. Using the pop-up menu you may assign photos to a **waypoint**. When doing so the waypoint's coordinates are copied to the images.

The next section holds **city**, **province** and **country** names of the location where the photos were taken. You may enter those manually or rely on the reverse geocoding feature to fill those in.



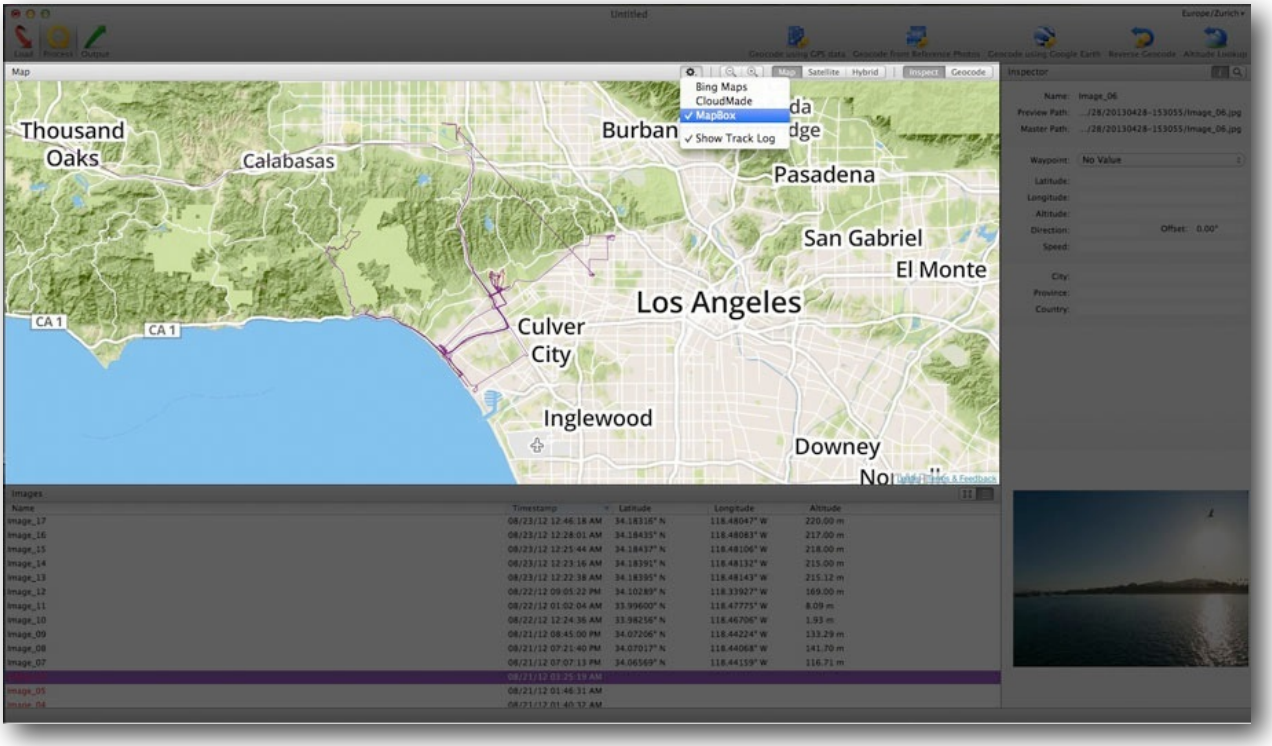
A second tab of the inspector is dedicated to information which may be exported to IPTC tags: **title**, **comment** and **keywords**.



The Map

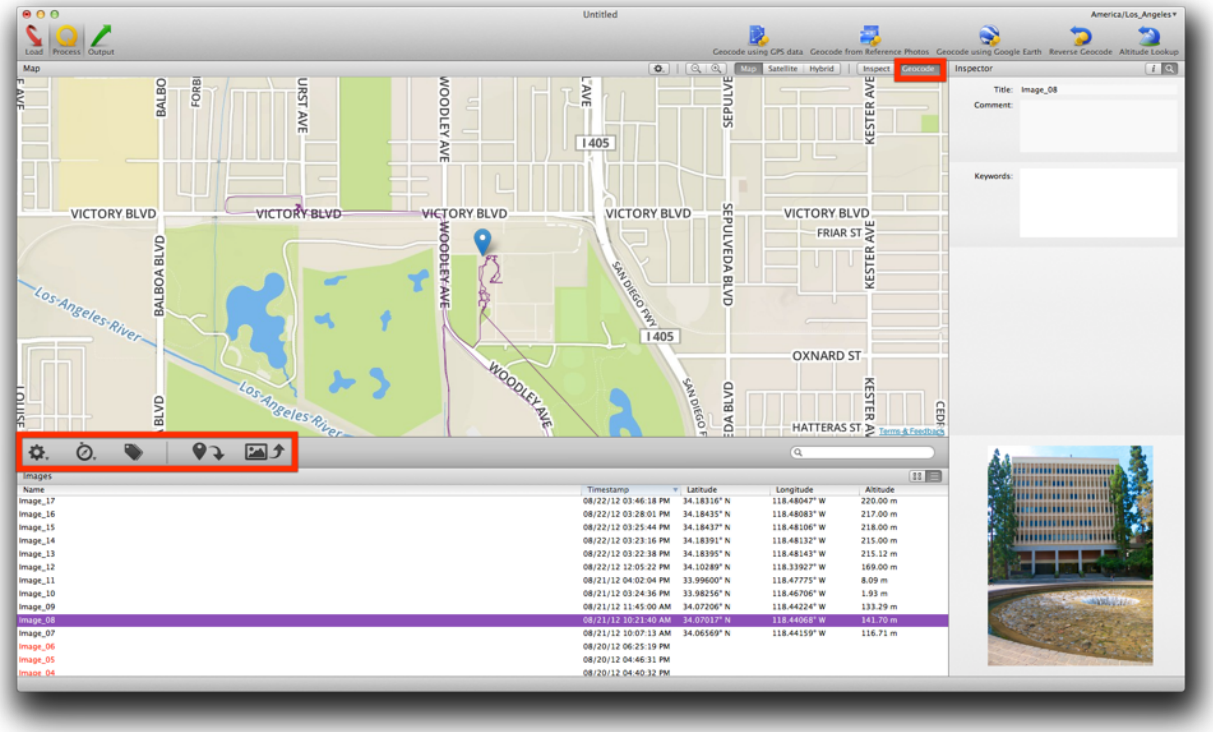
The most prominent part of the step 2 interface is the built-in map. A toolbar at the top of the map pane has controls to **zoom** the map and to switch between street **map** and **satellite** mode. There is also a control to switch between the **inspect** and the **geocode** modes.

HoudahGeo gives you a choice of map services.



In inspect mode, the map shows pins for all the currently selected images. It also shows track logs. This modes serves to verify that images are correctly geocoded. You may freely navigate the map without risk of accidental editing of image coordinates.

The geocode mode is used to adjust image positions after automatic geocoding or to manually geocode photos. In this mode, the map shows only a single pin located at the center of the map. It also shows a toolbar with additional controls.

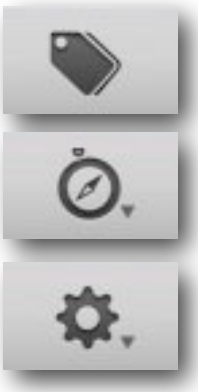


To adjust the location of an image:

- Select the image from the list at the bottom of the window
- Click the **Jump to Selection** button to "copy the coordinates from the image to the map". The pin will move to where the image is located
- Drag the pin or the map to select the desired location
- Click the **Geocode** button to "copy the coordinates from the pin to the selected images"

To geocode a series of images:

- Navigate the map to the location of the first image
- Select all images taken at that location
- Click the **Geocode** button to "copy the coordinates from the pin to the selected images"
- Adjust the map slightly to point to the location of the next image
- Select all images taken at that location
- Click the **Geocode** button to "copy the coordinates from the pin to the selected images"
- …



The **Bookmarks** button allows you to set and manage bookmarked pins on the map.

The **Open in Browser** button opens a web browser window showing the map area in Google Maps or Bing Maps.

The **Settings** button offers two options which may help speed up the process:

- **Automatically proceed to next image**. When this option is enabled, HoudahGeo will automatically select the next image once you are done geocoding one image
- **Automatically jump to selection.** With this option enabled, HoudahGeo will automatically update the map when you select an image

Combine both options to make minor adjustments to a series of images faster:

- Select an image. The map will show the pin at that image's location
- Adjust the pin and click the *Geocode* button. The coordinates are updated
- HoudahGeo moves on to the next image. The map will show the pin at the new image's location
- …

Geocode Using GPS Data

Geocoding from GPS data happens automatically as you load images and matching track logs into a HoudahGeo project. When HoudahGeo is able to match an image's timestamp to a time span covered by the track logs it will compute the image's location.

Click the **Geocode Using GPS Data** toolbar button to adjust options of the geocoding algorithm and to start automatic geocoding over.

Selected images only: Kickstart automatic geocoding only for the currently selected images. Settings made below nonetheless apply to the whole project.

Track log geocoding: Enable automatic geocoding from GPS track logs. HoudahGeo will match up image timestamps to timestamps in the GPS track log and thus compute image locations.

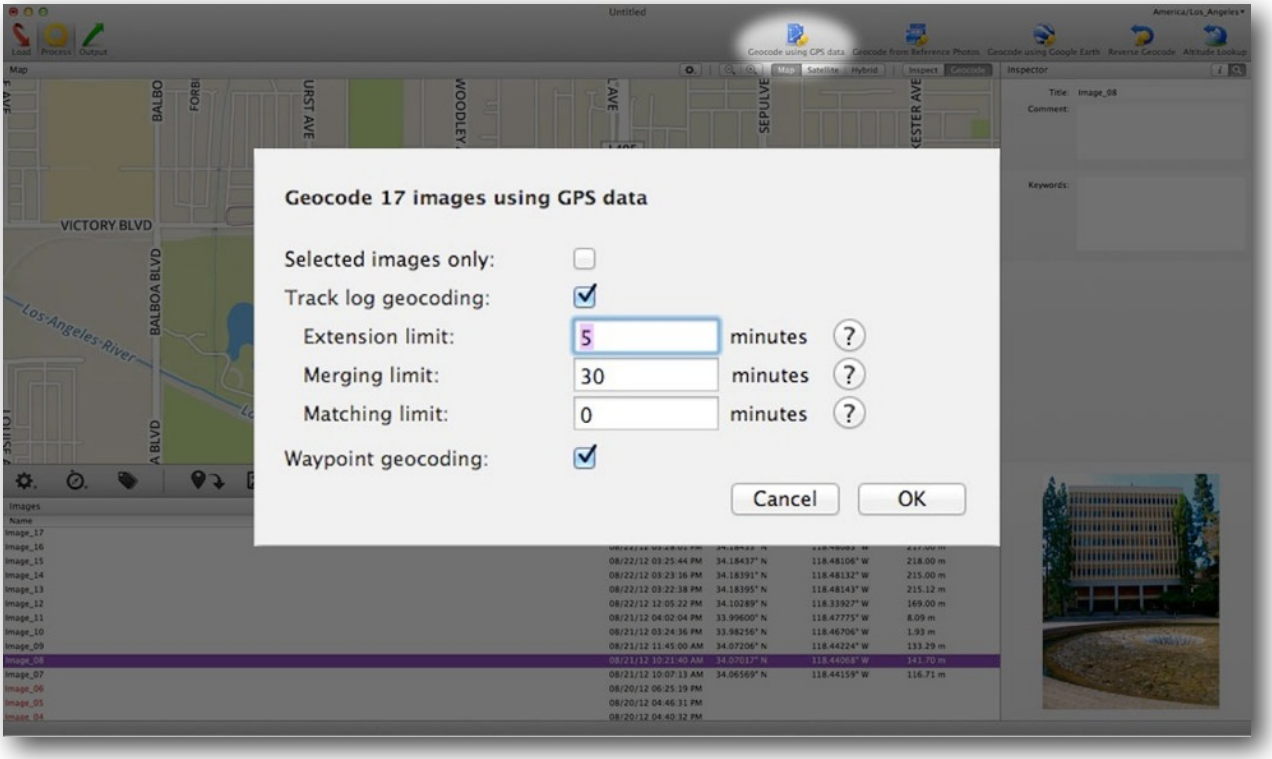
Extension limit: Number of minutes by which to extend the search for tracks matching a given photo. A photo is considered to match up with a track if it falls within the track's time span or within the specified number of minutes before the beginning or after the end of that time span. The default value is 5 minutes.

Merging limit: GPS devices may start new tracks when turned on or after losing GPS signal. Strictly speaking we cannot geocode a photo that falls between two tracks. HoudahGeo however decides to merge two tracks if the time elapsed between the first track's end and the

other track's beginning is less than the specified number of minutes. The default value is 30 minutes.

Matching limit: HoudahGeo determines the location where a photo was taken by matching it up with two track points: one preceding and one following the time the photo was taken. If the closest point's timestamp is more than the specified number of minutes before or after the photo was taken, HoudahGeo considers there is no match and does not geocode the photo. The default value of 0 disables this check.

Waypoint geocoding: Enable automatic geocoding from GPS waypoints. This applies to images for which track log geocoding yielded no result. For each image HoudahGeo will try to locate a waypoint that is close in time and match the image to that waypoint's location.



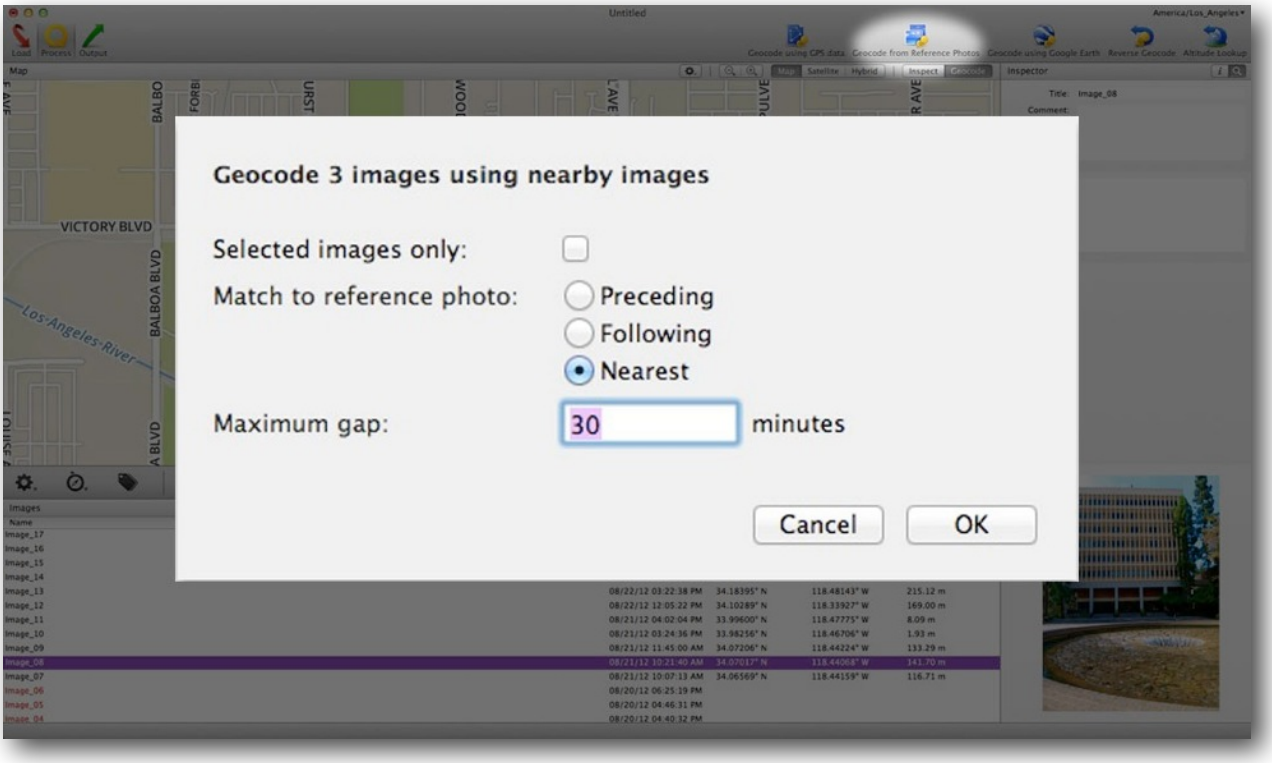
Geocode from Reference Photos

You may already have a camera that takes geotagged photos. Actually many camera phones take geotagged photos. With HoudahGeo you may use these photos as references to tag photos taken with another camera during the same time frame.

At each location you would take one geotagged picture as well as a series of regular photos. Then you load photos from both cameras into a HoudahGeo project. The **Geocode from Reference Photos** feature can then copy coordinates from the reference photos to other photos taken within the same time frame.

You may specify reference photos to always precede, always follow or just be taken in the same time frame as the photos you want to tag. E.g. your workflow may include always taking a reference photo before proceeding to take other photos.

Coordinates propagate from a reference photo to the nearest image and from there on to the next. Until HoudahGeo hits a time gap large enough to suppose that you have changed location.



Geocode Using Google Earth

Geocoding using Google Earth works much the same as geocoding using the built-in map. Once you activate this feature, HoudahGeo will launch Google Earth and show a floating window with geotagging controls.

Google Earth will show crosshairs at the center of the map view. Adjust the view so that the crosshairs match the location where you want to tag the selected images.

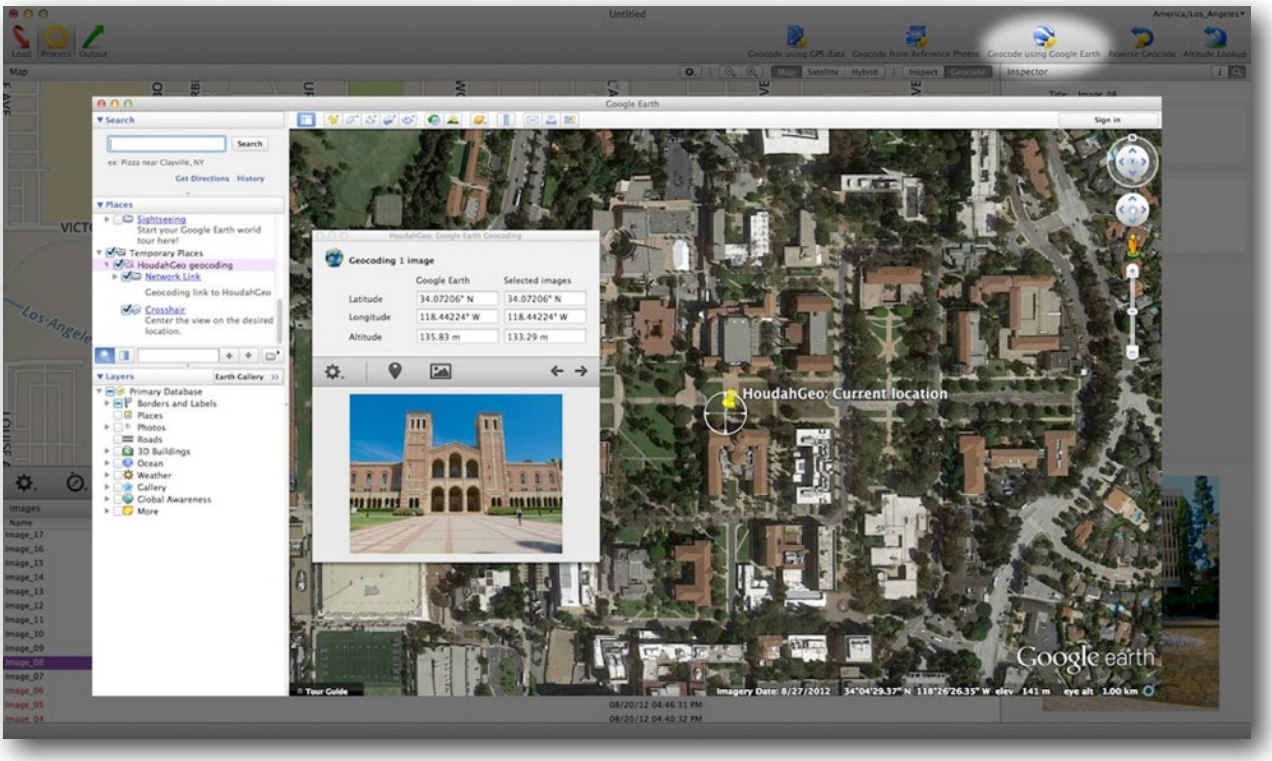
The **Settings** button offers two options which may help speed up the process:

- **Automatically proceed to next image**. When this option is enabled, HoudahGeo will automatically select the next image once you are done geocoding one image
- **Automatically jump to selection.** With this option enabled, HoudahGeo will automatically update the map when you select an image

The **Geocode** button copies the crosshairs' coordinates to the currently selected images.

The **Fly to Image Location** button moves the crosshairs to the coordinates of the currently selected images.

The **arrow** buttons allow you to navigate images in the project without returning to the HoudahGeo project window.



When you quit Google Earth, you will be offered the option to save the crosshairs to the "My Places" folder in Google Earth. You should decline that offer.

Reverse Geocode

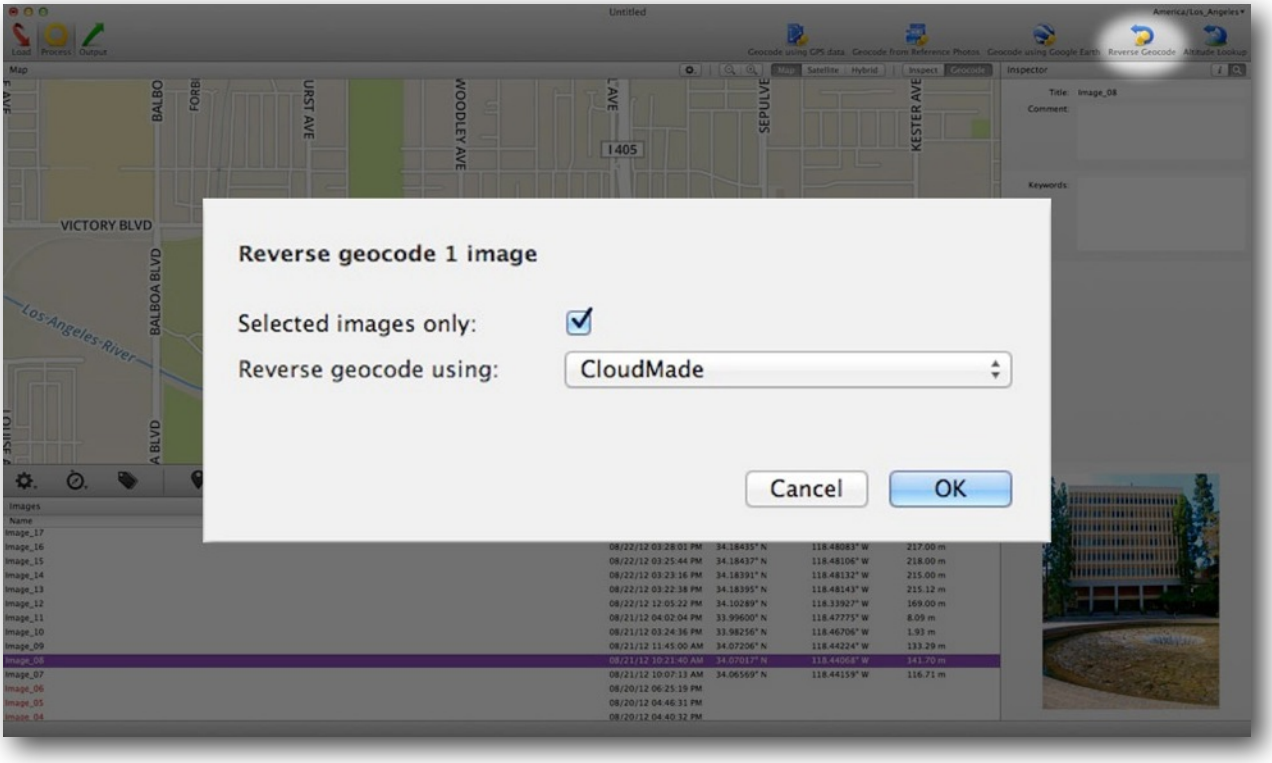
Once you are done geocoding your images, you may proceed to reverse geocoding. This is the process of deriving location names from GPS coordinates.

HoudahGeo supports several possible services for reverse geocoding. These all produce slightly different results. Actually quality of the results may vary by region.

The GeoNames.org services are available for free. There is however a limit to the number of requests you may make per day. After that GeoNames will report an error.

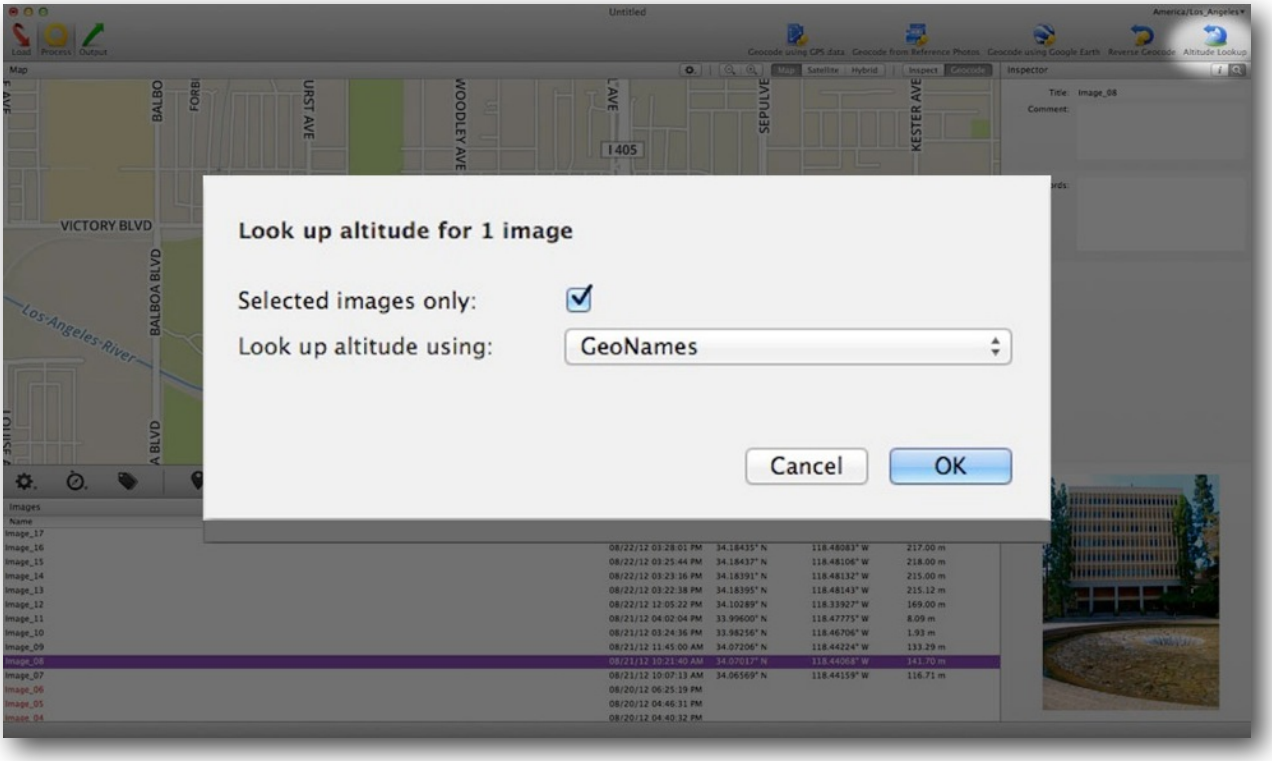
HoudahGeo offers an additional option: **GeoNames (local)**. This is different in that it does not require an Internet connection to reverse geocode your images. You only need to download the GeoNames database once. This will need about 400 MB of disk space.

The "GeoNames (local)" service uses a custom algorithm. It should however produce results very similar to the online "GeoNames" service.



Altitude Lookup

This option allows for deriving altitude values from GPS coordinates.



Step 3: Output

During this step HoudahGeo exports or publishes the metadata collected and generated in the previous steps.

Some settings are shared by most export options:

Selected images only: Only images previously selected in the project window will be processed.

Geocoded images only: Only images with latitude and longitude values will be processed.

EXIF / XMP Export

EXIF, XMP and IPTC tags allow for geocoding information to be stored invisibly within the image files. HoudahGeo supports JPEG photos as well as a wide variety of RAW formats.

> Writing EXIF/XMP/IPTC tags to image files requires modifying the files. This process is lossless. Image quality is not affected. Modifying files is however not without risk. We thus recommend you always have backup copies.

> HoudahGeo supports JPEG as well as a large selection of RAW formats. Please make use of the demo period to make sure HoudahGeo supports the image format produced by your camera.

Tag masters / originals: When adding images from the HoudahGeo media browser, HoudahGeo will store the paths to both the master and preview image as managed by your photo library. With this option enabled, HoudahGeo will tag the files referenced by the master path. You will usually want to have this option checked.

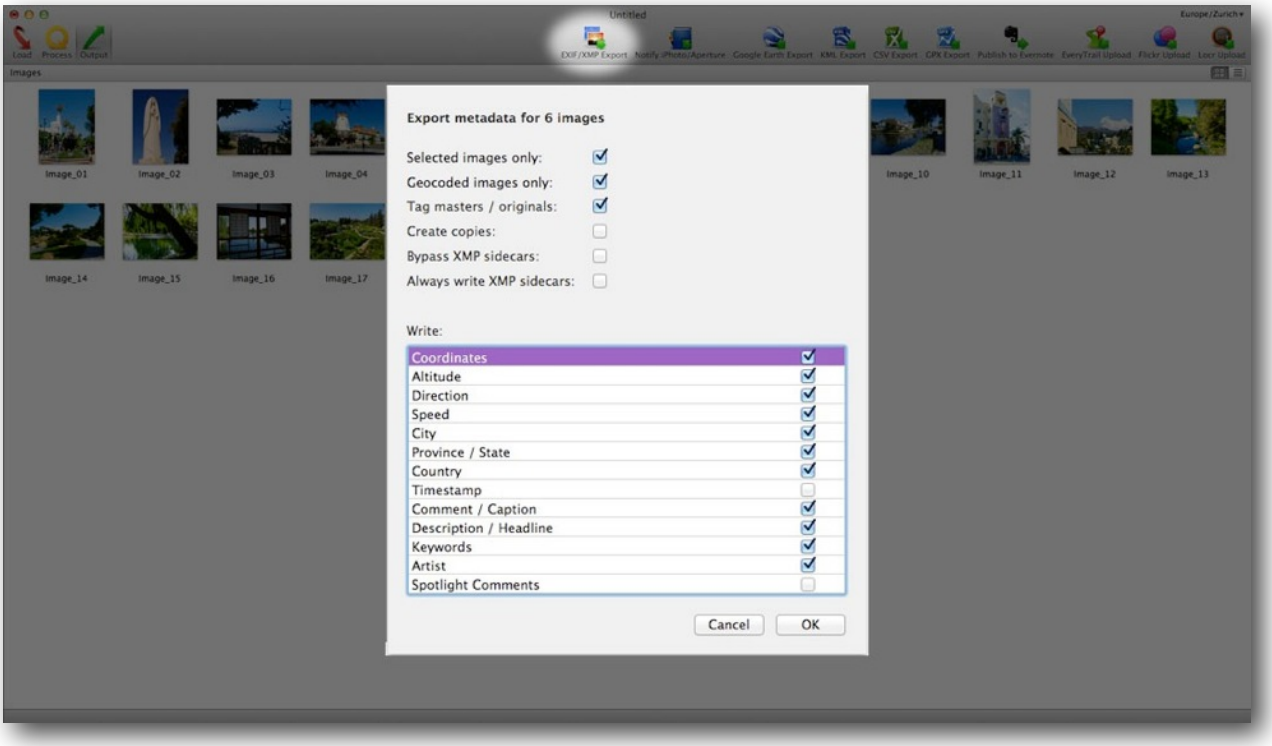
> HoudahGeo 3 differs from previous versions in that it actually stores the path to the master file as you add images to the project. This speeds up the process of geotagging: HoudahGeo no longer needs to search for the master files during export. It also gives you the option to check those paths before having HoudahGeo write EXIF/XMP tags.

Create copies: With this option, HoudahGeo will create copies of your image files before tagging those copies. It will ask you where to save the copies.

Bypass XMP sidecars: When XMP sidecars are present, HoudahGeo gives these priority over the actual image files: it will read from and write to the sidecars. With this option you may override this behavior and force HoudahGeo to write to the actual image files.

Always write XMP sidecar: With this option checked, HoudahGeo will create sidecars for images that have no sidecars yet.

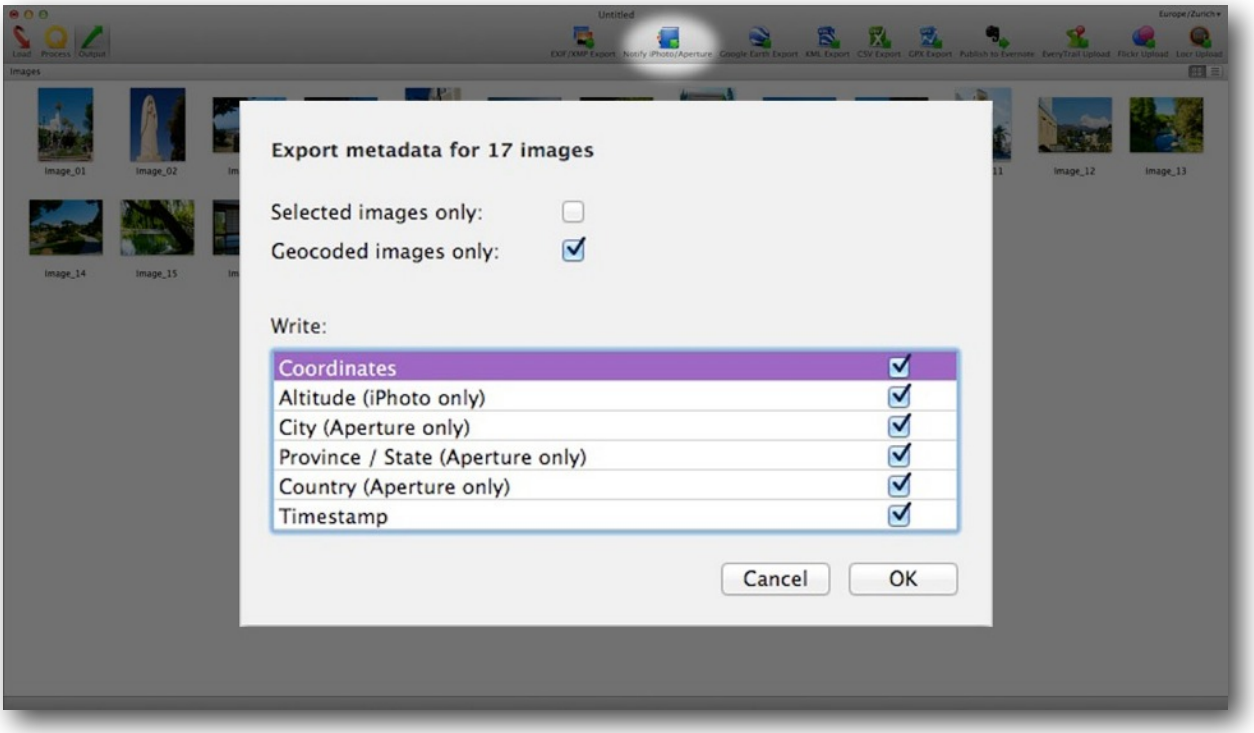
Write: Check the properties that you would like HoudahGeo to write to the image files.



HoudahGeo offers the option to write timestamps back to image files. This updates timestamps with the camera time zone and clock error. Please be absolutely sure that the information is correct before committing it to file.

Notify iPhoto / Aperture

HoudahGeo may notify iPhoto or Aperture that images they manage have updated metadata available. Usually you would perform this operation after tagging master / original files.



Google Earth Export

HoudahGeo offers the option to create a Google Earth KMZ file. This allows for viewing your photos within Google Earth. This is a terrific way for sharing photos and showing them in context. E.g. a real estate agent may publish photos of available properties pinned to the appropriate locations.

A KMZ file is self-contained: it holds images, thumbnails, location and track information. In order to pass on your photos to someone else you just need to hand out this single file.

A very nice feature of Google Earth is the ability to view photos exported from HoudahGeo as a *slideshow*. The slideshow is created by flying from location to location. At each location the slideshow may pause and briefly display the matching photo.

Template: HoudahGeo offers two predefined templates: **Default - Actual Altitude** and **Default - Clamped to Ground**. They differ in the way altitudes are handled. With the *Clamped to Ground* option Google Earth will assume photos were taken at ground level. The use of the *Actual Altitude* mode makes sense only if your images have been geocoded with altitude

information. There is a risk of images not showing in Google Earth if they are tagged with an altitude below ground level.

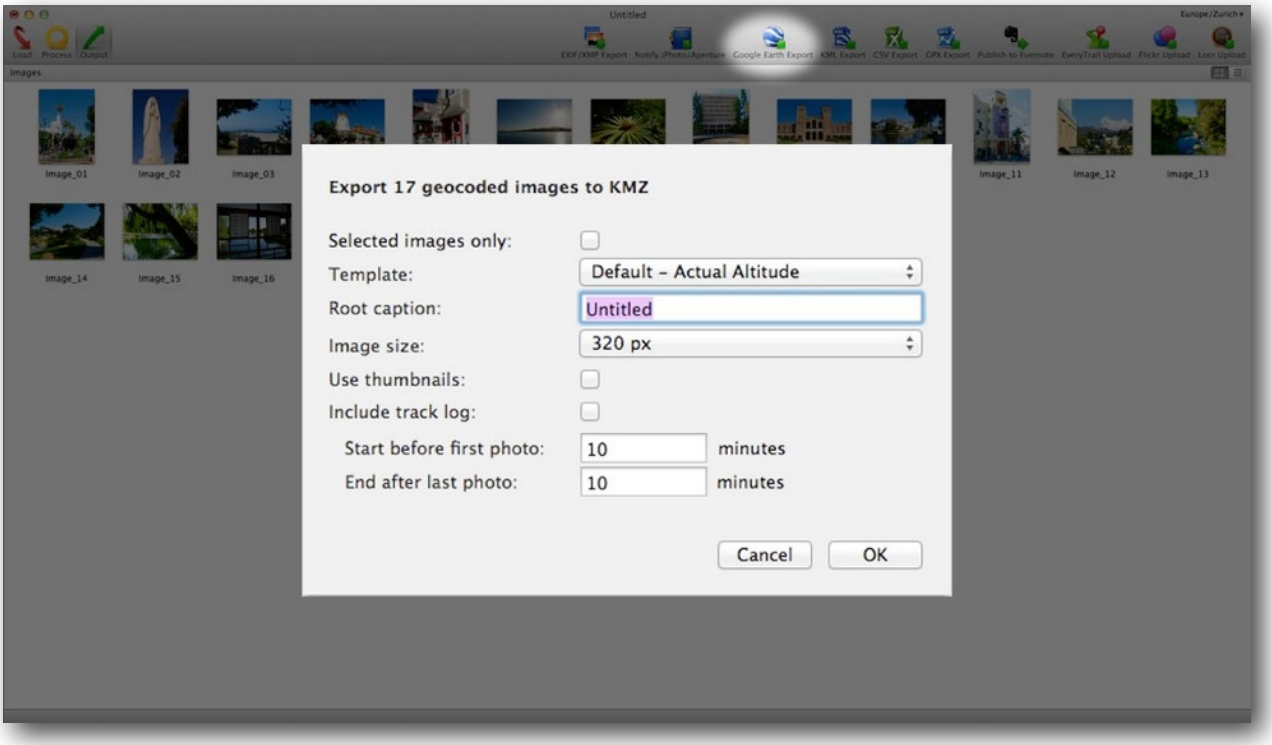
Root caption: This is the title by which your project will be known in Google Earth. Your project will be listed with this name under "My Places" within Google Earth

Image size: When a marker is clicked, Google Earth will display a preview of the corresponding photo. You may choose between 3 sizes for these preview images. If file size is an issue, you should prefer the smaller size.

Use thumbnail images: By default the KMZ will be configured for Google Earth to display markers at the positions where photos are located. You may choose to display thumbnail images rather than standard markers.

Include track log: HoudahGeo can include relevant parts of a loaded GPS track log. This shows how you got from one photo location to another. The display of the track log within Google Earth is optional. When enabled it shows as a red line.

A time line will allow for browsing and filtering images by date & time.



KML Export

Advanced users may opt to generate KML files from a HoudahGeo project. KML is an open standard. It is supported natively by Google Earth and Google Maps. Unlike KMZ, it is not self-contained. The KML file references image files residing next to it. This makes managing KML files pretty tricky.

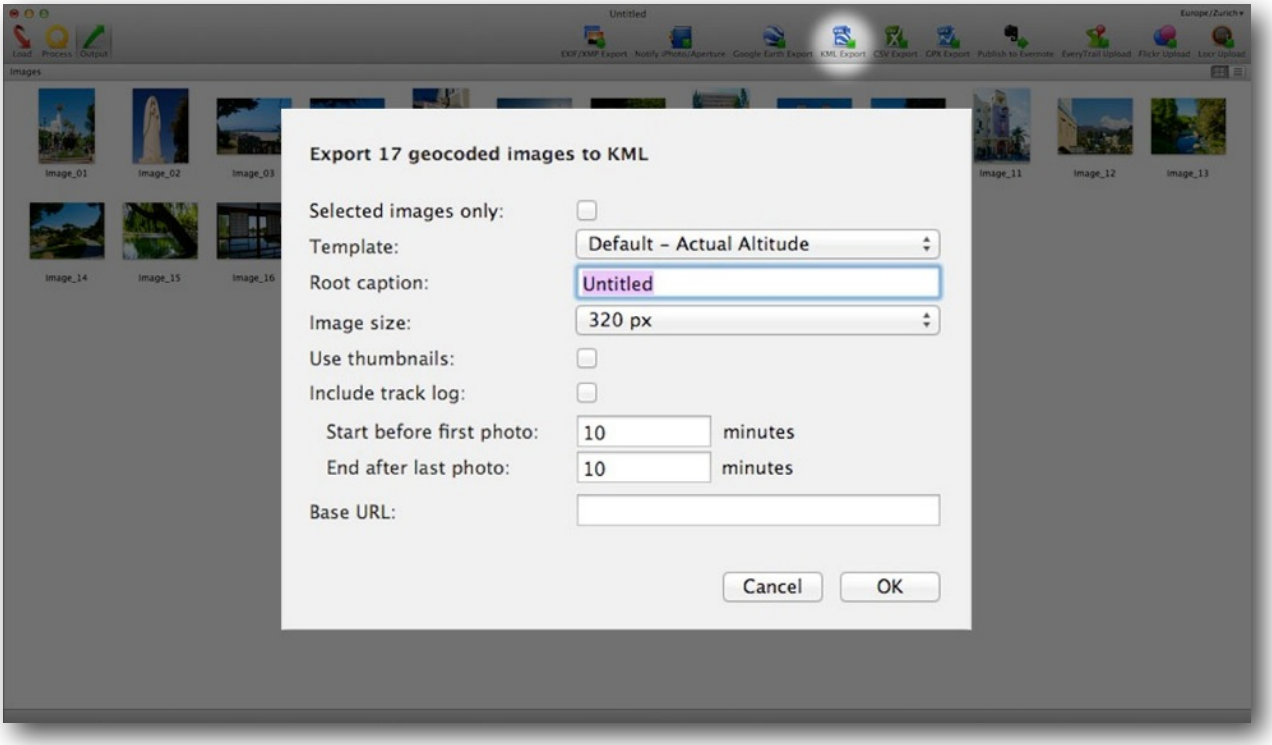
We can distinguish two types of KML files:

- The first is used locally on a computer. This one is easiest to create and to share. One only needs to take care to move the images along with the KML file and keep their relative position the same.
- The second type of KML is needed for files stored on a web server. As the viewer application must know where on the server to find the matching image files, the base URL for image files needs to be stored within the KML file. Thus HoudahGeo needs to know that URL at the time the KML is created. The KML can then be tested only once both the KML and the appropriate image files have been uploaded to said server.

KML export offers the same options as Google Earth KMZ export. Please see above for documentation of these options.

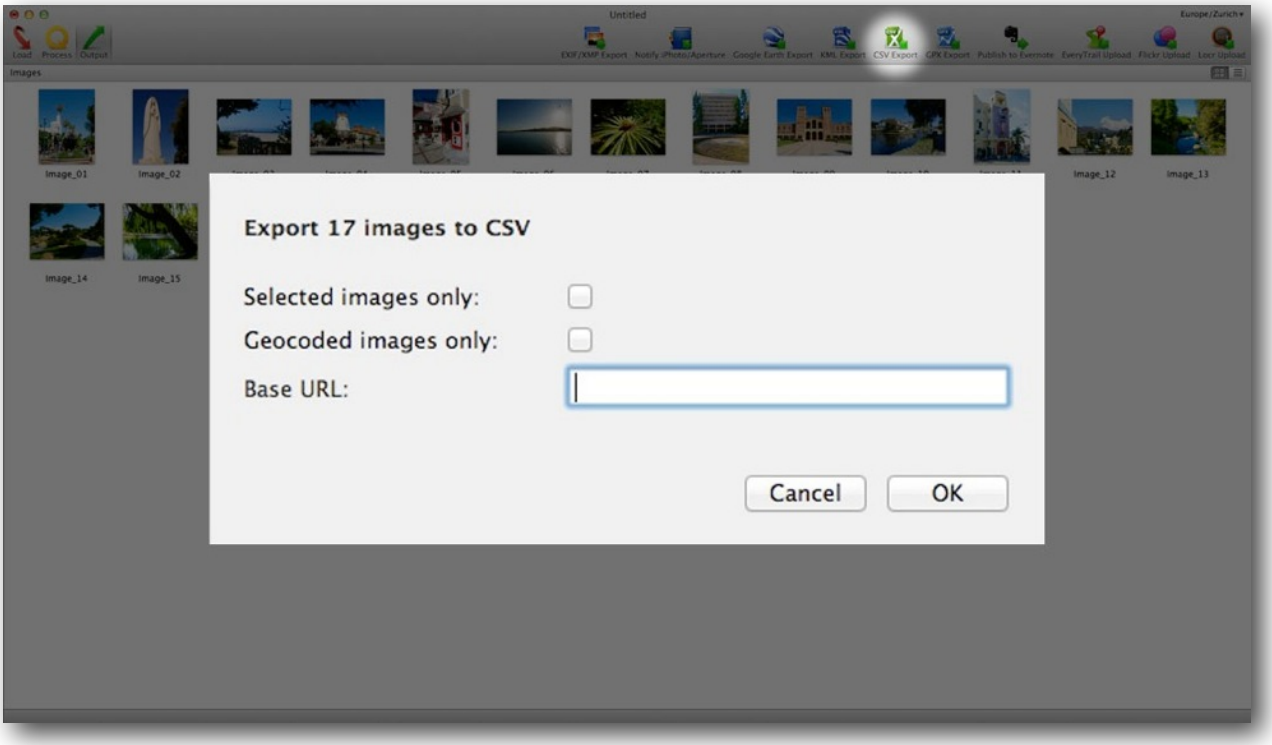
Base URL: HoudahGeo will generate a folder structure containing the actual KML file as well as the thumbnails and images it references. Base URL specifies where the KML file will ultimately be stored.

- If no "Output base URL" is specified, the KML file will work only locally. If you want to pass it on to someone else, you need to copy the folder structure as is.
- If base URL is specified, the KML expects the output folder to be placed at the specified location on a web server. Until you do so, the KML file cannot access or show photos. Once the photos are publicly available, you may pass along or make available for download the KML file. You may also use Google Maps to view the KML file.



CSV Export

This creates a Comma-Separated-Values file listing all images in the project. Such a file may be processed by various tools and applications. This includes spreadsheet applications.

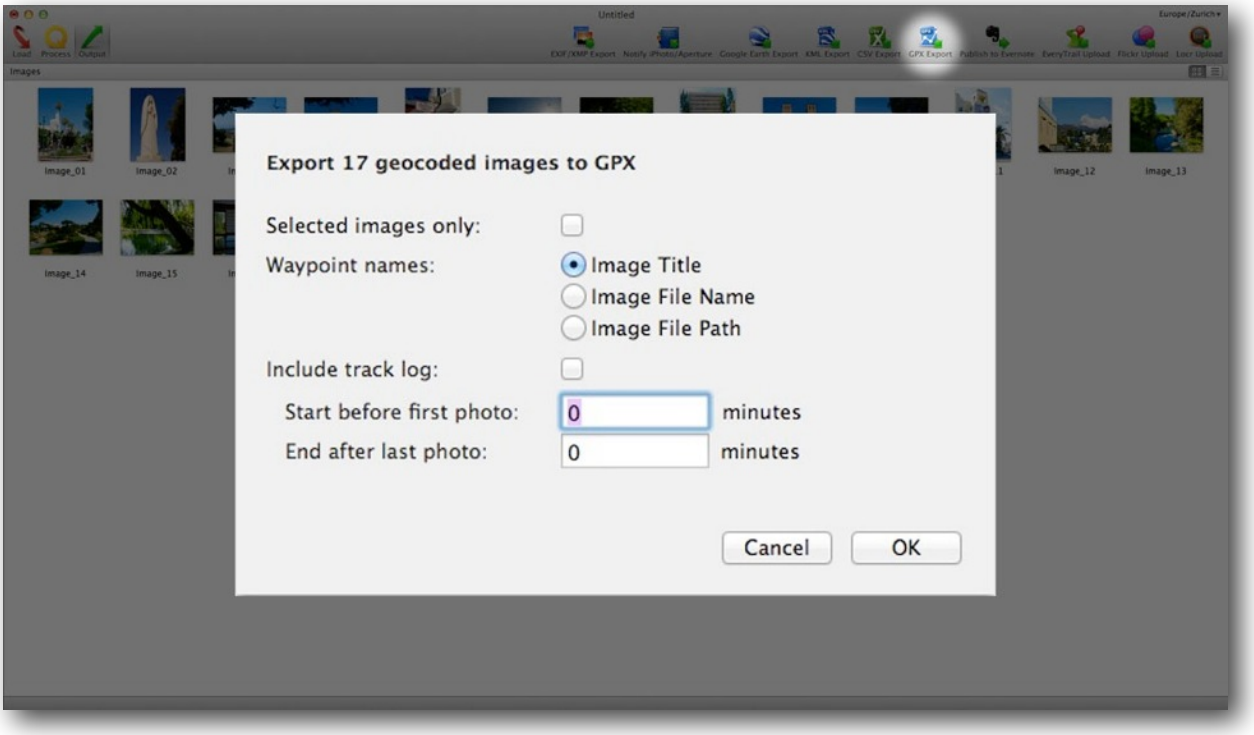


GPX Export

This creates a GPX file which has one waypoint for each image in the project.

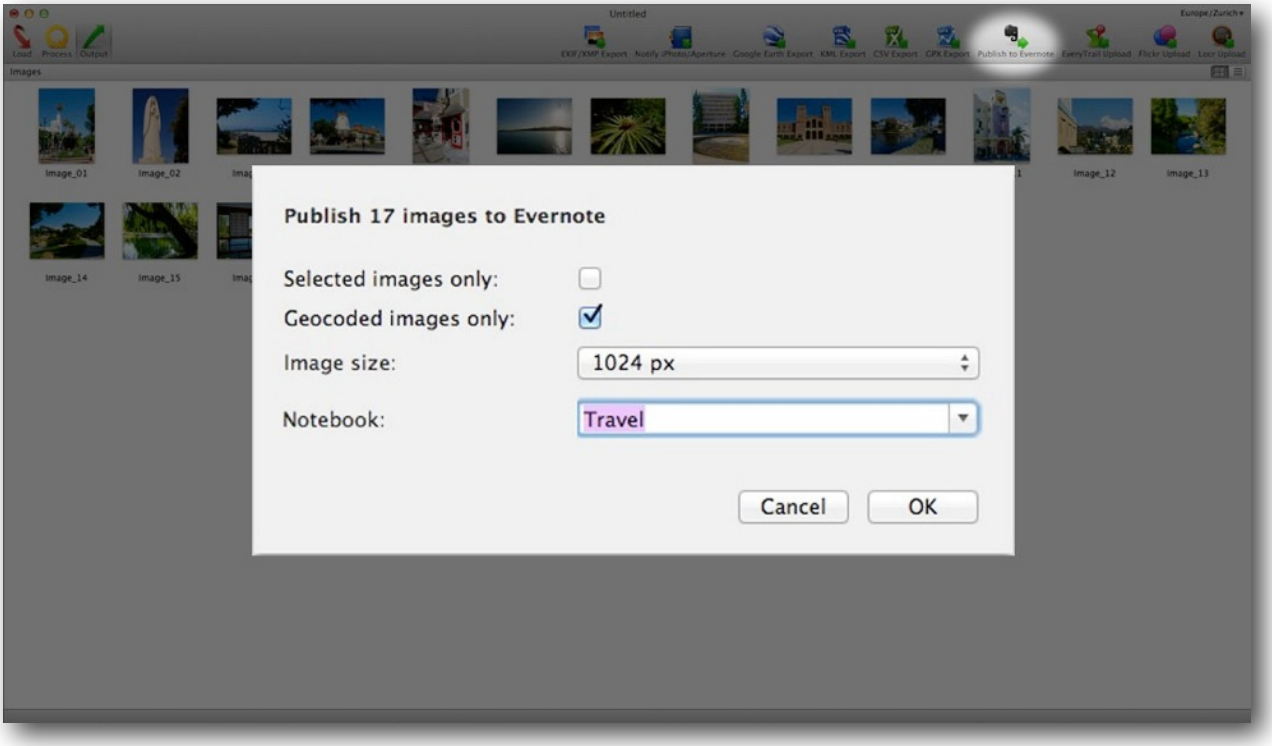
Waypoint names: You have the option to have HoudahGeo use the image's title, file name or path for the name of the associated waypoint.

Include track log: HoudahGeo can include relevant parts of a loaded GPS track log.



Publish to Evernote

This option copies your geocoded images to Evernote.



EveryTrail Upload

HoudahGeo allows you to publish projects as trips on EveryTrail.com. Much like HoudahGeo projects, EveryTrail trips are made of images and tracks linking them together. Thus this option is available only for projects that contain track logs.

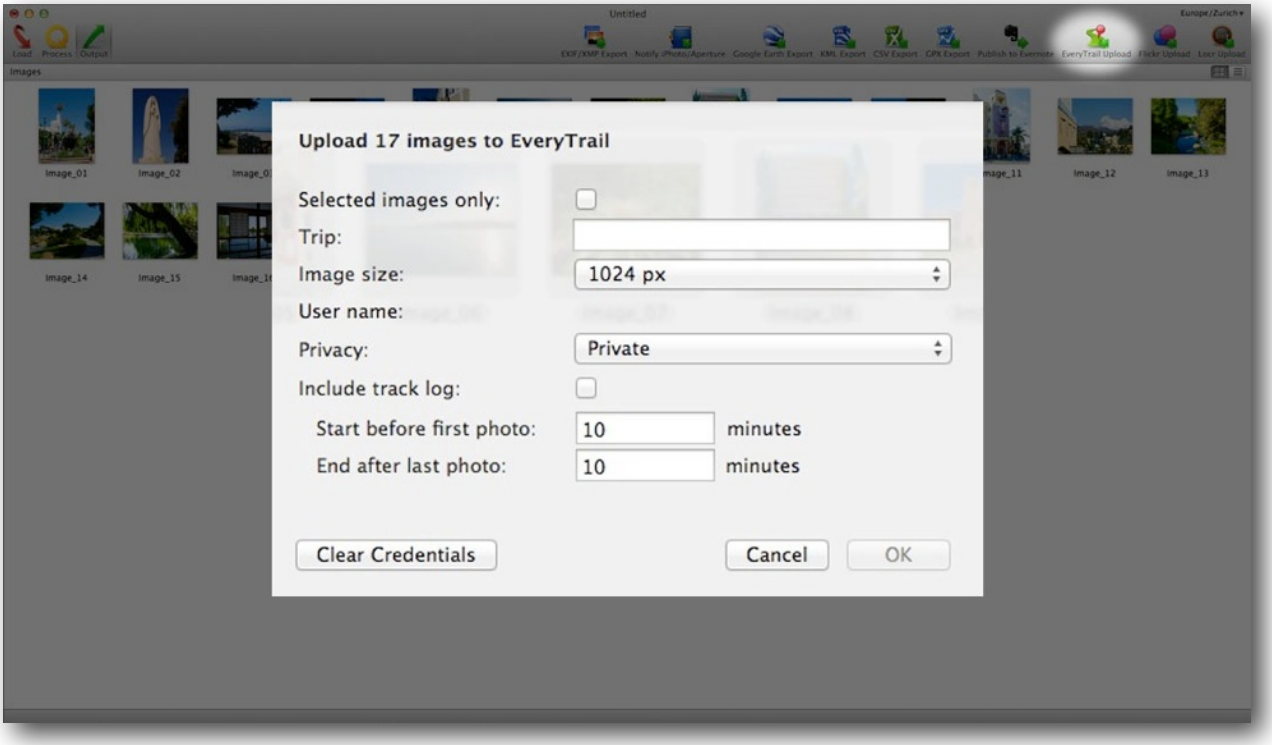
Trip: Name your trip on EveryTrail

Image size: HoudahGeo converts your images to the JPEG format before uploading. You may specify a maximum dimension to scale the image down to.

Privacy: This specifies who is allowed to see your trip once it is published on EveryTrail.

Include track log: HoudahGeo can include relevant parts of a loaded GPS track log. This shows how you got from one photo location to another.

Clear credentials: HoudahGeo needs to know your EveryTrail user name and password to access your account. Should you want to use HoudahGeo with another EveryTrail account, you need to first clear the existing credentials.



Flickr Upload

This option uploads photos from your HoudahGeo project to Flickr.com

Image size: HoudahGeo converts your images to the JPEG format before uploading. You may specify a maximum dimension to scale the image down to.

> You can freely choose a size during export. Flickr however limits the resolution you may access online if you have a free account.

Include machine tags: Flickr supports two ways of attaching location information to a photo. The first is based on EXIF tags which HoudahGeo automatically attaches to the images it uploads. The second makes use of machine tags. These are special tags which the Flickr server knows to interpret. E.g. geo:lat=34.073157 geo:lon=-118.452398

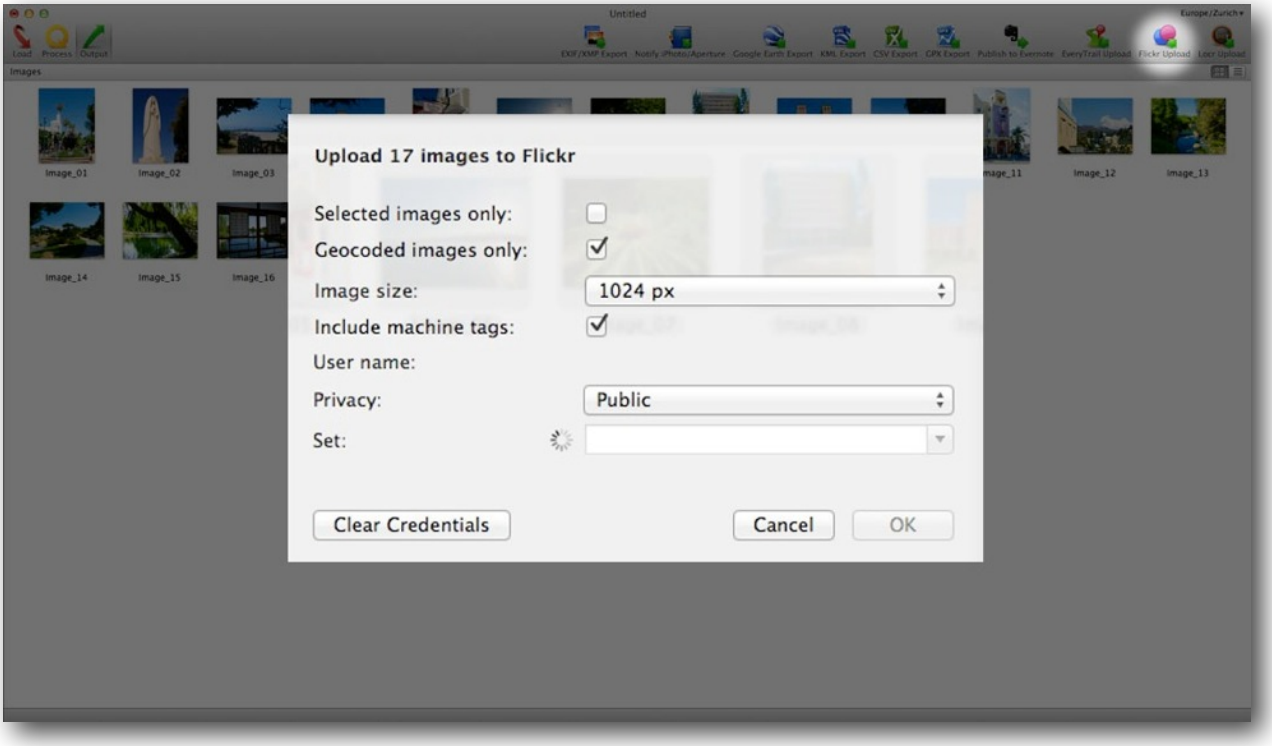
Some Flickr clients rely on the presence of these tags. It is best to let HoudahGeo attach those.

> In order to fully benefit from uploading geocoded images to Flickr, you need to enable the "*Import EXIF location data*" option in your Flickr privacy settings.

Privacy: This setting determines who may see the photos you are about to publish. Possible values are: Public, Friends & Family, Friends, Family, Private.

Set: You may choose to add your photos to one of your Flickr sets. Either pick one from the list or enter a name to have HoudahGeo create a new set.

Clear credentials: HoudahGeo needs to be authorized for use with your Flickr account. Once you have done this, HoudahGeo stores Flickr credentials. Should you want to use HoudahGeo with another Flickr account, you need to first clear the existing credentials.



Locr Upload

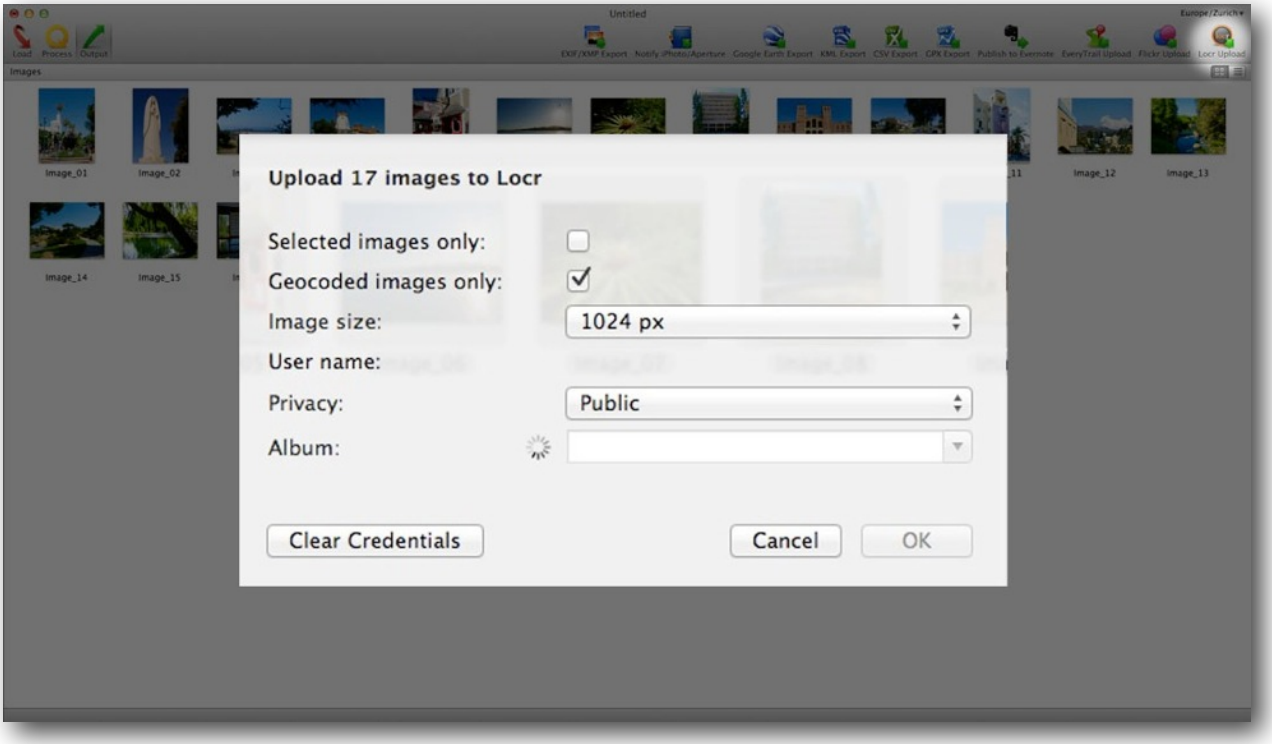
This option uploads photos from your HoudahGeo project to locr.com

Image size: HoudahGeo converts your images to the JPEG format before uploading. You may specify a maximum dimension to scale the image down to.

Privacy: This setting determines who may see the photos you are about to publish. Possible values are: Public, Friends, Family and Private.

Album: You may choose to add your photos to one of your Locr albums. Either pick one from the list or enter a name to have HoudahGeo create a new album.

Clear credentials: HoudahGeo needs to know your Locr user name and password to access your account. Should you want to use HoudahGeo with another Locr account, you need to first clear the existing credentials.



Frequently Asked Questions

For more questions and answers, also check out the Houdah online forums:
http://forums.houdah.com

Does HoudahGeo support RAW files?

Yes. HoudahGeo supports JPEG as well as many RAW image file formats.

HoudahGeo may read all the same file formats as Apple's iPhoto and Aperture.

For writing EXIF, XMP & IPTC tags, HoudahGeo relies on Phil Harvey's excellent ExifTool. You may check this list for file formats ExifTool can write to.

Please use the demo version of HoudahGeo to test with actual files from your camera.

I don't own a GPS. Can I still use HoudahGeo?

Yes! HoudahGeo offers various ways to geocode images: using a map, using Google Earth, from reference photos, ….

Does HoudahGeo work with DNG files?

Yes. You may however experience problems with incorrect timestamps. At least some versions of Adobe's DNG converter suppose that both the computer and the camera share the same time zone. The computer time zone information is embedded in the DNG at the time of the conversion. It is best to make sure computer and camera time zones match when converting from RAW to DNG.

Why doesn't HoudahGeo support Canon CRW/CIFF files?

Canon CRW/CIFF files do not support GPS related IPTC or XMP tags. Thus these files cannot directly be written to. You may however create XMP sidecar files. The newer CR2 file format however is fully supported.

Can you recommend a particular GPS device?

GPS devices come in a wide variety conceived for many different uses. It is a good idea to assess your needs and buy the receiver that matches those.

For the use with HoudahGeo, you need a device that has a track logging feature. This is available in most handheld receivers. Car navigation devices however usually do not have this ability.

You should also make sure that the device has the ability to export GPX or NMEA track log files. This may be done using software provided with the device or with third party software like HoudahGPS or LoadMyTracks.

• Our latest favorite is the Wintec WBT-202. It features a removable battery as well as a removable microSD memory card. You may thus head off for long trips without bringing your computer along. Just pack additional memory cards. Where no power is available you may also bring additional batteries. The Wintec WBT-202 mounts as a removable disk. On this drive you will find track log files in the TES format. These may be used with HoudahGeo.

• The older Wintec WBT-201 is smaller and cheaper, but lacks removable memory. HoudahGeo supports connection to the Wintec WBT-201 using both USB and Bluetooth.

Device settings may be configured using the vendor's Windows application or using the open source GTK-Rays-2 tool.

• We can also recommend the Qstarz BT-Q1300. The Qstarz BT-Q1300 is based upon the MediaTek MTK with 66 channels tracking for fast acquisition and reacquisition.

• The GlobalSat DG100, the i-Blue 747 and many other devices are also based on the MTK chipset. MTK-based devices exist with a variety of USB chipsets. Some of these chipsets require drivers for them to be visible to GPSBabel, HoudahGPS or HoudahGeo.

• HoudahGeo users also report success with the driverless Amod AGL3080. This device mounts on your desktop much like a USB pen drive. You just need to point HoudahGeo to the track log files on the drive.

• Nikon users looking for a device which supports viewing direction should investigate the Solmeta Geotagger N3 available from GPS-Camera.eu. This device has the camera write geotags directly to the image file as they are recorded. This will save you some work in HoudahGeo. You will still be using HoudahGeo to publish to Google Earth, upload to Flickr, …

How do I ensure the camera's clock is accurate?

1. Decide on a time zone you will use over the course of the project. Typically this is either your home time zone or a time zone you travel to.
2a. Set your GPS device to display time in the chosen time zone.
2b. If your GPS device has no display, use a radio-controlled clock.
3. Start setting the time on your digital camera.
4a. If your camera allows for setting seconds to zero, do so when the clock on the GPS device jumps to the next minute.

4b. Otherwise set the time on the camera to the next full minute. Save the newly set time at the very moment the actual time on the GPS device catches up.

Why couldn't some of my images be processed?

Do your photos have EXIF timestamps?

A photo must have a valid EXIF timestamp in order to geocode it from a GPX track log.

Remedy: Geocode the photo using the build-in map or using Google Earth.

Was the camera clock set correctly?

HoudahGeo relies on the camera clock working consistently over the course of a project. If your camera clock was consistently off by a certain number of seconds, you may input this clock error when importing the first image into the project.

Remedy: If the clock error has changed over the course of the project you will need to manually edit the timestamps.

Was the time zone configured correctly?

HoudahGeo inquires about the camera time zone when importing the first image into the project. You need to provide accurate information. Typically this is either your home time zone or the time zone you travelled to.

Remedy: Select *Camera Setup* from the *Load* menu and apply the correct settings.

Do the photo times fall within the time frame of the track log?

In order to geocode a photo, its timestamp must fall between the time of two consecutive track points in a given track log segment. Photos taken outside the time span covered by the track log can thus not be geocoded. If you expect the photo to fall within the correct time frame, you may want to double check the camera time zone and clock error settings.

Remedy: Geocode the photo using the build-in map or using Google Earth.

Why can't Lightroom see the geotags?

Lightroom requires special setting to share metadata with HoudahGeo. You need to set Lightroom to write metadata to XMP sidecars. HoudahGeo will read and update the sidecars. After that you need to instruct Lightroom to reload metadata from the files.

Licensing

Demo period

HoudahGeo is available as a trial version. During the demo period you will be able to test the full feature set with the exception of export functions. These are limited to 5 images.

Buying HoudahGeo

Is a very good idea! Licenses may be purchased from our web store.

Entering an activation code

Usually upon purchase you will be emailed an activation code. You may enter the activation code from the demo nag window. HoudahGeo will then connect to our servers and retrieve your license file. The file will be automatically installed. You will also receive a copy of the license file in email. Please keep that file in a safe place. You will need it to install HoudahGeo on your other or future Macs.

Loading a license

HoudahGeo licenses come as files. When you purchase HoudahGeo you will be mailed your personal license file. There are many ways to load the file into your copy of HoudahGeo. The most convenient being to open the attachment right from your e-mail application. The license file may also be opened from the nag panel or from the standard "Open" command.

Reminder: licenses are personal

License files are personal and contain your e-mail address. Be sure not to mix up your license file with other people's.